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It was the biggest drug smuggling ring in the US. And it operated off the North Carolina coast in the 1980’s with a cast of characters right out of an Elmore Leonard novel—upper-class gang leaders, ruthless smugglers, local crooks and boat captains; drug agents, the FBI—even the CIA—and local law enforcement, including the federal prosecutor for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Doug McCullough, now a sitting judge on the NC Court of Appeals. McCullough, has written Sea Of Greed, a page-turner about the drug ring case and its conclusion: the invasion of Panama by US forces and the arrest of president Manuel Noriega. In this issue Metro presents an exclusive serialization of the first chapter of this dramatic story, set in Beaufort and Morehead City. How’s that for your summer reading entertainment?

But there are many more July shank-of-the-summer treats in this issue. Mel Lewis (Bob Lee Swagger to fans of his irreverent web site www.swaggersays.com) remembers dreamy days at the beach with his dad fishing off one of the dozens of piers that decorated the NC coastline. Now the old piers are nearly extinct almost overnight—most notably Bob Lee’s and this writer’s own favorites at Atlantic Beach. To this add Jim Leutz’s plea in his column for an organized effort to bring groups together to address the problems facing our beaches before they wash away.

The sadness of this news is diminished somewhat by the resurgence of beach music and the dance we can call our very own in the Carolinas: the shag—with its hip-swaying, hand-holding, smooth back and forth bop-like motion matching the ebb and flow of moonlit ocean waves. A new book, Shagging in the Carolinas, studies the comeback of the sensual dance, with old snaps of some of the more famous shag shrines from Nags Head to Myrtle Beach.

Nags Head you say? Diane Lea returns from a visit to the oldest of the family beaches on our coast with news of the preservation of a unique architectural style—and its replication on one of our newest oceanfront communities, the exclusive Figure Eight Island resort near Wilmington. This is authentic North Carolina design, with people and history and stories attached that remind us of our heritage, and its survival in a fast-moving world.

Carroll Leggett remembers the miracle of the ice machine that arrived during the late 1800s to cool the South during hot summer weather; wine critic Barbara Ensrud extols the qualities of dry rosé for warm weather dining and Louis St. Lewis heads off to England and Guernsey to beat the heat. Art Taylor suggests a steamy and brainy romance for beach reading and Metro fashion czarina Molly Fulghum Heintz recommends the right luggage and the latest in stylish tennis gear for summer.

Moreton Neal visits the long-awaited new Nelsons restaurant in Raleigh, Philip van Vleck finds singer Katherine Whalen heading off in new directions and Frances Smith and the gang present a tidal wave of events during July following the Pepsi Americas’ Sail Tall Ships event in Beaufort and Morehead City June 30 - July 5. Go to www.metronc.com and view the special section we published in June listing the ships and the events for this historic maritime event.

Saving the “best” for last, to make a lousy pun, we present the first of two issues announcing the winners of the seventh annual MetroBravo! “best of” winners from the Triangle to the coast. As usual there are some surprises and several new faces winning awards based on the over 3,000 ballots received this year. We thank you for your vote and we congratulate the winners. Look for Part Two in Metro’s August issue.

Go Canes!

—Bernie Reeves, Editor & Publisher
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BURGWYN PORTRAIT

Nice of Metro to run the announcement of the Museum’s receipt of the Copley Portrait of John Burgwyn. However, two small quibbles:

1) John Singleton Copley was an American expatriate painter. He quit Boston as the Revolution revved up (who buys portraits when bullets are flying?) and settled in London.

2) The portrait was not purchased but was the blessed gift of the sitter’s descendants, specifically the children and grandchildren of Judge William H. S. Burgwyn and his wife Josephine Griffin Burgwyn. It is astonishing to me that the portrait remained in the same family for more than 220 years; even more astonishing that the family was North Carolinian. Without doubt this painting was the finest work of art in NC until Canova’s Giorgio Washington was sledged up to Raleigh.

Small points, but art historians can be small.

John W. Coffey, Deputy Director for Art Curator of American and Modern Art North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh

REBUTTAL TO REBUTTAL

I was not going to read Metro again but when I heard that there was a rebuttal (June issue) to my letter to the editor (May issue), I had to read it. I have just a couple of brief comments regarding the rebuttal letter.

This Teer person insinuates that I disrespect our military. Nothing could be more inaccurate. I have nothing but complete and utter respect for our military. My own cousin was killed in Iraq recently and I am proud of his service to our country. However, I do disagree with the Bush administration’s policies that have put our soldiers in harm’s way under what I perceive to be false pretenses and without the support of the majority of the global community.

Mr. Teer’s comment regarding my “foaming hatred” is obviously an attempt at character assassination. Honest disagreement and respect for the opinions of others is the American way. Therefore, I am forced to wonder why these radical conservatives resort to such low and desperate tactics when someone openly disagrees with them.

Buck Winslow
Raleigh

HE’S COAST GUARD CAPTAIN LEE

I thoroughly enjoyed your article on the upcoming tall ships’ visit (June issue). As an old “Coastie” however, I would like to note that Coast Guard Captain Lee’s job may be “Commander, Section, North Carolina,” but his rank, from his uniform, is clearly Captain, something of which he is no
doubt justly proud.

H. C. "Mac" Forehand III
Boone, NC

(Old Coast Guardsman, son of an even older one, brother, nephew, and cousin of assorted Coasties, too)

OILER FAN PRAISES CANIAC FANS

I would like to congratulate and praise the Hurricane fans in their support of their team. It has been a great series, some of the best hockey ever. As an Oiler fan it was nice to see the fans singing the Canadian anthem and best of luck to the Canes.

Tom Smith,
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

THANKS FROM ECU DESIGN PROGRAM

On behalf of the College of Human Ecology and particularly the interior design program at East Carolina University, many thanks to Metro Magazine for the story about our students' designs for west Greenville homes in your June 2006 edition (p. 127). We were delighted with the story and appreciate the attention from your fine magazine! You never know when a prospective interior design student may see such information, enroll, and begin down the career path. Thank you.

Peggy Novotny, Marketing Director
College of Human Ecology
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- The Castro Obsession, U.S. operations against Cuba by retired Miami Herald Latin America editor Don Bohning
- Fidel: Hollywood's Favorite Tyrant by author and Cuba commentator Humberto Fontova
- Cuban Culture: Castro's Destructive Leadership by Cuban-born management professor Art Padilla

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Features

24 Drug Smuggling on the NC Coast
Sea of Greed

28 Design
Two for the Coast Nags Head Style

Departments

8 Introduction High Times

12 Correspondence Reader Feedback

18 Secrets of State Who Will Succeed Castro?, Garcia Film to Play, Terror America, Marlette Magic Time, NC Barbeque Society, JetBlue Launches, Carrboro Film Festival

55 Coastal Coastal News and Events

61 Editor-at-Large Coastal Report Card Not Good

64 MetroPreview Enjoy Summer as July Flies By

68 Between You and Me... The Iceman Cometh

70 Artist-at-Large England and Guernsey Do Not Disappoint

72 Style Longchamp Opens in NYC

76 Gourmet Nelsons Opens in Cameron Village

79 Restaurant Guide

81 Cork Report Rosy Allure for Summer

83 Books Lovers Tell All

85 PnV New Direction for Katherine Whalen

88 My Usual Charming Self The Return of Fidel Castro

35 BEST OF THE BEST
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- Fidel: Hollywood’s Favorite Tyrant by author and Cuba commentator Humberto Fontova
- Cuban Culture: Castro’s Destructive Leadership by Cuban-born management professor Art Padilla
- Castro is back on the world stage and in the news. His relationship with Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, new verbal attacks against the US, public sympathy for Islamic terrorism and the Maximum Leader’s advancing age make Castro and Cuba the hot topic for policy planners.

Check www.raleighspyconference.com for updates. Contact the NC Museum of History to register:

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Schedule of Events

Wednesday, Aug. 23
6-7 p.m.
Registration and cocktail reception
7:10-8 p.m.
Art Padilla – Cuban Culture and Castro’s “Destructive Leadership Style”

Thursday, Aug. 24
9-10:15 a.m.
Don Bohning – The Castro Obsession: U.S. Covert War Against Cuba
10:30-11:45 a.m.
Tim Naftali – Castro and Khrushchev: New Revelations of the Special Relationship
Noon-1:30 p.m.
Lunch Break
1:30-2:45 p.m.
Gene Poteat – The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Firsthand Account
3-4:30 p.m.
Humberto Fontova – Castro: Favorite Tyrant of the American Left

Friday, Aug. 25
9-10:30 a.m.
Speakers’ Panel – Castro and Cuba: Then and Now
11 a.m.
Keynote Address
Brian Latell – After Fidel: What Next for Cuba and the United States?
Who will replace Fidel Castro, who turns 80 in August?

According to Brian Latell, a former CIA Latin American chief—and the keynote speaker for the fourth Raleigh International Spy Conference set for August 23-25—"It is very likely—it's most likely—that his brother Raúl will take over with some other generals and other prominent civilians in a successor regime," Latell said. But he "wouldn't bet the mortgage on Castro's 75-year-old younger brother taking over.

"I say Raúl because he has been the designated successor since 1959—from the very beginning when Castro seized power," explained Latell, who retired from the CIA in 1998. "He controls the military, he controls the intelligence services, and he also runs a large percentage of the Cuban economy. He's the world's longest serving defense minister. This guy has his hands on a lot of levers of power and influence, and I don't think it's likely any other leader will challenge him once Fidel is gone."

Latell devotes much attention to the younger Castro in his book After Fidel: The Inside Story of Castro's Regime and Cuba's Next Leader published last October. The book explains that Raúl is not an unknown figure on the world stage. He joined with his older brother in the rebellion that overthrew Fulgencio Batista New Year's Day 1959 and was responsible for many of the unsavory acts by the regime. "I argue in the book that Raúl has not been underestimated, that Fidel would not have lasted all these years without him," Latell said. "Raúl is the only essential man at Fidel's side." He speculated that the two have serious differences of opinions these days over various matters. Yet Fidel remains the ruler, Raúl the servant. According to Latell, "They've been allies in revolution since 1953. Raúl as a young man lived in awe of his older brother Fidel."

While a blood brother of Fidel, Raúl is much different. For one thing, he is hardly as charismatic as his older sibling, who has been idolized by communists, guerrillas, left-wing media and Hollywood for his fervent opposition to the United States.

"Raúl is going to have to give the people bread, not circus," said Latell, who recently signed on as an analyst with NBC News and now works at the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies as a senior research associate. "Raúl recognizes that. He won't be able to wow the crowd like his brother has."

Raúl also has been willing to kill—on his brother's orders, Latell said.

In his book, Latell reported the details of a "full-blooded murder, execution style" carried out by Raúl against another man training with the Castro brothers in Mexico in 1956. Fidel didn't trust the man and wanted him killed. Raúl did the dirty deed.

"My source really is unimpeachable," Latell said, citing him as a "very high-level source who defected from Cuba."

There is more to Raúl than ruthless devotion, however. Should he take over, Latell said, the Cuban people and the world might be surprised by what he does.

"Raúl has a well-deserved, a well-earned reputation as a brutal, brutal draconian leader," he explained. "Raúl was one of the premier executors during the first few years of the regime. He carried out executions in cold blood. He was very, very remorseless. That's the reputation he has when most people think of him—a tough hardliner."

"My feeling is that he's not very popular with the Cuban people," Latell added. "Most think of him as the original Stalinist in the Castro government."

Raúl also is an alcoholic, Latell said. "Potentially, that really is a problem. He has been drinking heavily since his teenage years. You have to wonder, if and when he does take over, what will he do if he has been drinking too much when he needs to be sober in making decisions?"

But a side of Raúl that most people don't see does exist, Latell said.

"In researching my book, I found another side to his personality. He also has a very compassionate, sentimental side. He's very close to his family, his wife, his children, his grandchildren. He forms very close friendships, and he's loyal to his friends for the most part."

"The question becomes, when he takes power, which side will dominate?"

Latell said it is possible Raúl will seek to open up the Cuban economy in an attempt to provide relief for the populace.

"My guess is that he will want to give Cuban people more economic freedom, but he won't want to loosen control politically," Latell said. "I think he could pursue something like the China model—greater economic freedom at the grassroots, but no political freedom."

It's not inconceivable that Raúl might also seek to improve relations with the United States, Latell added. "This guy is more pragmatic than his brother. He's less dogmatic. He's less ideologically fixed. I don't want to put any odds on it, but I think he would want better relationships with the US. If I'm right, that's encouraging."

Latell's conclusions about who would succeed Castro, or if Raúl does take command, how he might run the island, have triggered angst among some Cuban Americans.

"All these qualities that he attributes to Raúl, I dispute completely," Ninoska Pérez Castellón, a radio commentator in Miami and a member of the Cuban Liberty Council, recently told The Miami Herald. "I don't know how he proposes to sell this thesis that after 47 years of sanctions against Fidel Castro, that we can contemplate negotiating with his brother. The moment Fidel dies is the moment power, which side will dominate?"

Should Raúl emerge as ruler, the US would be well served not to underestimate him whether he adopts a hard line or seeks dialogue, Latell said.

"They have one of the best spy intelligence services in the world," said Latell. And Raúl has been the boss.

For more information or to register for the Raleigh International Spy Conference, go to...

JULY 2006 METROMAGAZINE
www.raleighspyconference.com or call the spy hotline: 919-807-7917.

—Rick Smith

Garcia Film on Cuba To Play Raleigh

Just in time before the Raleigh Spy Conference addresses what will happen in Cuba "after Fidel," The Lost City, a film by Cuban-born actor Andy Garcia, will play Raleigh theatres July 7. The film has had limited screenings due to criticism by pro-Castro political activists and reviewers who are upset the film does not play to the party line that depicts Cuba before the Castro take-over as a downtrodden peasant society ripe for revolution.

Instead, the film depicts Cuba through the eyes of Garcia as a member of a middle-class Havana family at the time of the 1959 rebellion. Garcia sees Cuba as it really was: the most economically advanced nation in Latin America and on a par with most advanced countries with high wages, high agricultural yields and a large and productive middle class. The data are clear that Castro's take-over was largely a university-directed Soviet-financed grab for power to establish a communist state—hardly the peasant revolution depicted in the press.
Ines Sastre and Andy Garcia in _The Lost City_ in Raleigh.


Raleigh's Ambassador Entertainment has not decided at this writing which of its theaters will show the film: The Rialto, The Colony or Mission Valley.

Exploris Examines "Terror in America"

"The Enemy Within: Terror in America," a new exhibition opening August 26 at Exploris in Raleigh brings turbulent times in American history to life through thought-provoking settings that honor the resilience of Americans in the face of adversity.

Developed by the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, and currently on display at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, the exhibition presents nine major events in American history which provide a framework for understanding the world today.

Highlights of the exhibition include 145 historic photographs and documents, artifacts—such as fragments of the planes that hit the World Trade Center—and Ku Klux Klan robes, a timeline with 170 events and government responses, and nine computer polling stations where visitors can express their opinions about the balance of individual freedom and national security.

An IMAX film, _Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag_ will complement the exhibit. It follows a young American pilot through international training exercises for air forces of allied countries where some of the world's best pilots meet for the most challenging flying of their careers as they discover the power of teamwork and the true meaning of heroism.

Exploris offers special pricing, $5 for the exhibit with combination pricing for museum and IMAX films, and discounts for groups and military personnel. The exhibit is recommended for children 12 and older.

**Marlette Book Sparks Raves**

If the early reviews are any indication, Doug Marlette's upcoming novel _Magic Time_ looks to be a blockbuster, with the usually low-key Kirkus reviews saying the second book by the syndicated cartoonist and novelist "sets a harmonic tone, both glorious and deeply moving."

_Magic Time_ follows Marlette's first novel _The Bridge_, set in the textile strikes in the 1930s and modern-day Hillsborough, NC, Marlette's home. In _Magic Time_ a newspaper columnist returns from Manhattan to his home town in rural Mississippi where a trial is underway for an ex-Klansman accused of a church bombing that killed four people 30 years previously. Tied into the story are events leading up to the bombing and life afterwards for the central character Carter Ransom.

To quote Kirkus: "Marlette sets the stage for an intricate story of love, struggle and terror. The past unfolds as if the reader were sharing the moment. Change is in the air but so is fear." As southern novelist Rick Bragg puts it, "I have always loved that word 'page-turner' and that is just what Doug Marlette has done in _Magic Time_."

Look for the book September 19.

**Society for NC Barbecue**

Winston-Salem attorney Jim Early is on a mission.

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He's now focused with evangelical zeal on establishing the North Carolina Barbecue Society (NCBS), because, he says, "North Carolina is the cradle of 'cue."

He believes authentic pit-cooked barbecue is a rarity today. As aging pit masters die, their pits are modernized with gas or electricity, or their buildings simply burn down.

Two years ago he self-published *The Best Tar Heel Barbecue: Manteo to Murphy*, a guide for aficionados. He reviewed 140 restaurants across the state.

But it's not enough, he said. He wants to take a video crew to the pits and hold seminars.

"I want to preserve the culture of the pit masters cooking while they still can. I want to establish a historic barbecue trail, with 25 places, eastern to western."

He wants a corporate sponsor for the NCBS. "We need to design and build a Web site, and get our newsletter, *The Squealer*, into production," he said.

He's seeking individuals to join, too. "The base cost is $35," he said, "And the first 500 members get charter memberships."

To join the NCBS, email him at

continued on page 87

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North Carolina Appeals Court
Judge J. Douglas McCullough served in the federal prosecutor's office for the Eastern District of the state from 1981 to 1996. He was directly involved in the pursuit and prosecution of the principal players in the largest drug smuggling ring in US history. His early investigations in North Carolina began a chain of events and indictments that resulted in the invasion of Panama and the arrest of President Manuel Noriega.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s a host of smuggling organizations, most originating from ragtag entrepreneurs, began large-scale, multi-ton marijuana smuggling into the United States. Of these operations, none had the sophistication of the Ritch-Kalish-Vogel organization. An eventual increase in naval patrols, coupled with intense development of waterfront property, led to the demise of these organizations to the point that smuggling marijuana by sea has disappeared.

The following is an excerpt from Judge McCullough's forthcoming book, Sea of Greed, written with Les Pendleton, describing the initial discovery of the ring as they operated in Beaufort and Morehead City in 1982.

Chapter One: Abandoned Lady
July 7, 1982—Beaufort Inlet, Beaufort, North Carolina 10:30 p.m.
Beaufort Inlet can be nasty when it chooses. It is one of only three all-weather inlets on the coast of North Carolina. It serves as a high-traffic commercial port, attracting container ships from all over the world, and as a harbor for a myriad assortment of fishing vessels and top-drawer pleasure yachts. Situated in the middle of the Atlantic Coast and known to every boater as part of the Graveyard of the Atlantic, it attracts a large cross section of seagoing commerce. Patrolling the area, and oftentimes serving as the court of last resort for sailors in distress, the United States Coast Guard maintains a major station there, the Fort Macon complex near the mouth of the inlet. Like every other summer holiday, the Fourth of July results in an extremely trying period for the men and women stationed there. Pleasure vessels run aground, diesels decide to end their career in the middle of the inlet with a nine-hundred-foot container ship bearing down on them, and novice boaters of every description declare that Beaufort Inlet might be a great place to try out their new toy. This year, the Fort Macon coasties counted down the hours until the holiday weekend was over. The sun had...
been down about an hour and the pleasure boats had, for the most part, taken their skippers back to the local bars in Beaufort and Morehead City.

"Damn, I'm ready to drop."

"Yeah, I need to start taking vacations inland. I think some mountain air might be refreshing about now."

"You know, you'd suffocate without salt in the air. I figure you'd last about two days away from the ocean."

"Well, after this past weekend, I'm ready to try it. How many calls did we get? Something like two hundred?"

"Sounds about right, and at least half of them were just kids playing with the radio."

"I'd like to get my hands on those little bastards."

The two Coast Guardsmen bantered as they untied their twenty-one-foot launch and prepared for a routine patrol of the inlet and the surrounding shoals at Shackleford Banks. The senior, Bosun's Mate Second Class Frank Verheul, fired up the twin-hundred-horse Mercs while his crewman, BM3 Richard Hall, freed the dock lines and expertly pushed the bow off the seawall and out toward the ocean.

"Let's work the inlet for a while. The earlier shift said some sailboats were anchoring pretty close to the ship channel. The last thing we need is to have some Panamanian freighter making port with a grease spot on his bow that used to be a forty-foot sloop."

"Yeah, they anchor in the middle of the ship channel and it would be our fault for not placing yellow dye in the water reading No Parking Zone."

They motored out through the wide inlet. The boat traffic was light by that time of night, and the running lights they spotted on the far side of the channel stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb.

"Hey Frank, we've got some running lights off to starboard. Looks like they're about to hit the shoals at Shackleford. They're definitely outside the channel."

The young officer grabbed a set of rubber-shielded binoculars from their rack on the boat's console.

"Actually, it's two vessels, a small one in the lead and a larger one close on his ass. Looks like a shrimper to me. Must be from the Gulf; none of the locals will run that close to the banks."

Verheul turned the launch to starboard and gave the throttle a little push. They picked up enough speed to gain on the two boats and generate a good amount of spray over the bow and in their faces. The evening air was still steamy with the residue of the day's ninety-five degrees plus daytime heat. The spray felt cold but invigorating as it painted their faces. They came alongside the smaller vessel and hailed them.

"Do you need help negotiating the channel? You're headed into some very shallow water."

The boat's pilot shook his head negatively and waved them off. There was an odd assortment of men on board and Verheul decided to follow behind the open runabout. As they fell in behind them, the boat increased its speed and turned into Taylor's Creek, the approach channel to Beaufort. Richard followed the smaller boat's movements with the binoculars, not wanting to lose them among the fleet of sailboats anchored across from the picturesque waterfront community.

"Looks like a lot of guys for an open boat. Let's see if they've got enough jackets onboard. Bet you ten bucks they're at least two short and don't have current flares. You in?"

"No way, I'd bet fifty you're right! Hit the light."

The rotating light on the launch lit up a large section of the waterfront as it played off the storefronts and windshields of the huge sportfishing boats tied up to the city docks. As they came alongside the open-bowed runabout, both officers were taken aback by what they saw. The incongruent contingent aboard the twenty-two-foot Cobia jumped out at them like a neon sign on a church. Five men, most in street clothes, with one appearing to be headed to a disco with his gold chains and unbuttoned silk shirt and leisure sport coat, stared at them with obvious concern on their faces. Two of the men stepped off the boat onto the dock and briskly made their way toward the business district. The three remaining crew had with them a briefcase, duffel bag, toolbox and scuba tanks. The operator of the boat moved from the wheel toward the side of the boat and spoke first.

"Well, good evening boys. What can we help the Coast Guard with this evening?"

Verheul had just opened his mouth to ask them the same question when he heard a distinct splash on the opposite side of the runabout. He pretended not to notice and inquired of the boat's crew:

"We're just fine, sir. Can you show us your lifejackets and flares please?"

"No problem, officer."

He reached under the console seat and started pulling out bright orange life jackets. Obviously two short, he moved to look under several other seats. It was apparent he didn't know where to look for safety equipment on the boat. Meanwhile, the two Coast Guard officers surveyed the crew. They were definitely not fishing. There was only one small fresh water rod in the boat, and the cooler in the floor of the cockpit wouldn't hold more than a six-pack of beer.

"Damn, I can't believe this. We're two short. Got flares right here though. He
handed the three flare casings to Verheul.
"Sorry, sir, but these are outdated. What are you doing out on the water this evening?"
"Fishing. Been over to the banks, just watching the sunset and put out some rods, I mean a rod."
Verheul had heard enough excuses over the years that he could tell the difference between embarrassed negligence and outright lying. This was lying. The chance that these guys had been fishing was about the same as his piloting the space shuttle. He played with them.
"Did you have any luck?"
"Luck with what?"
"With your fishing."
"Oh, that—no, we didn't catch nothing."
While Verheul was talking with the supposed fishermen, his partner caught a glimpse of the larger shrimp boat, which had been following them. It had bypassed Taylor's Creek and was heading straight into the commercial port area of Beaufort. Frank continued with his questions.
"Any identification on you?"
The boat pilot appeared to search through his pants pockets and offered...
"Damn, I must have left my wallet back at the dock. This sure isn't my day."
"And what dock would that be?"
"Uh, in Wilmington. Just borrowed the boat from a buddy and forgot to get his registration. You're not going to give me a ticket are you?"
"I'm going to let you fellows go, but you need to carry identification on you when you operate a boat, and you better get some more life jackets."
Verheul made a note of the registration numbers on the boat. Hall had caught his attention and motioned for him to expedite the proceedings so they could follow the larger boat into port before it disappeared from view. Frank gunned the throttle as they sped off into the main ship channel.
"Still see them?"
"No. They probably killed the running lights and turned into the port area."
"There's not that many places there to dock a smaller boat, just a bare seawall and the fueling area."
"What did you make of that group of thugs?"
"They sure as hell weren't fishing."
"Did you see them toss a package overboard as we came alongside?"
"Affirmative, and I also did a quick triangulation so we can go back and take a look at what's on the bottom there. If the current doesn't move it off too much, we'll see what scared them enough to shitcan it. See the shrimper yet?"
Hall shined a high-intensity spotlight along the wharf area. It was very still that late in the evening and virtually no one stirring on the shore.
"Got it! She's tied up next to the State Port docks."
"Let's go have a look at her."
The two coasties motored alongside the shrimp boat and noted the name on the stern, Bobby M. hailing out of Wilmington, North Carolina.
She was wooden, about seventy feet long and appeared to be nothing special as shrimpers went. It was interesting to the officers that the vessel was tied to the dock with a single bowline. No waterman would ever consider that proper docking. Frank grabbed a bullhorn from the console and yelled.
"Bobby M., this is United States Coast Guard launch off your stern. We'd like to come aboard for an inspection."
It was the time of year when the Coast Guard and Wildlife Officers routinely inspected commercial fishing vessels.

There would be little reason for any shrimp boat to be running around this time of night. A dark figure could be seen in the wheelhouse of the Bobby M. Frank repeated his call.
"Skipper, permission to come aboard. This is the United States Coast Guard."
From the cabin, a figure appeared and moved toward the Coast Guard launch.
"Sorry fellas, didn't hear you. I was listening to a weather broadcast on the VHF. My crewman went to find some fuel. We're running pretty damned near empty. What can I help you with this evening?"
"We'd like to do a safety inspection, skipper. Anything in the hold?"

"Nope, ain't the season for shrimping boys, but you know that, don't you?"

"Yes Sir, mind if we come aboard?"

Both coasties knew that it was the middle of shrimp season and every shrimper in the area expected to be boarded and checked for illegal catches. This was a major red flag for both of them. Sweat was starting to pile up on the captain's brow.

"Well, of course you can come aboard. I've got to make a phone call myself so you fellas just help yourself."

Verheul jumped aboard as the Bobby M's skipper stepped off to the seawall to go make his call. The officer entered the shrimp boat's pilothouse and found an unusual assortment of paraphernalia strewn about. There was a briefcase with an unusual assortment of paraphernalia strewn about. There was a briefcase with a custom gun case, night-vision goggles and a set of scuba gear. There was also a large assortment of paraphernalia strewn about. There was a briefcase with a custom gun case, night-vision goggles and a set of scuba gear.

There was overkill in radio and navigation instrumentation for a shrimper. There was also a large assortment of paraphernalia strewn about. There was a briefcase with a custom gun case, night-vision goggles and a set of scuba gear.

There was overkill in radio and navigation instrumentation for a shrimper.

Verheul and Weatherby ripped the canvas from the hold while Hall held the spotlight in every corner and dark crevice until they were convinced that nobody was topside. Verheul went back over to the hold so tightly covered with dark canvas.

"Well, they haven't taken anything out of here since I was on board. Still nailed up like a whiskey keg. Let's just take a look-see, shall we?"

Verheul and Weatherby rifled the canvas from the hold while Hall held the spotlight in every corner and dark crevice until they were convinced that nobody was topside. Verheul went back over to the hold so tightly covered with dark canvas.

"Yes Sir, this is Verheul, we've got a suspicious shrimp trawler down here at the Port Authority docks. I'm not sure what they're up to, but I can tell you that when I was getting ready to search their hold, somebody below was cocking a shotgun getting ready to give me a personal welcome. No Sir, I'm on a pay phone over at a marina. I was afraid to use the VHF, didn't want them listening in. They've got to be smugglin' something. The whole thing just doesn't smell right to me and Rich. We figured we should check in with the brass. Yes Sir, we'll keep an eye on 'em till you get over here, but you need to get a move on."

Verheul turned to Hall. "Ok, they're on the way. I hope this isn't a wild goose chase 'cause they're pretty pumped up about it at the station. They said they'd be here as quick as they could get the cutter running."

Verheul and Hall watched as the Bobby M. backed slowly out of her slip at the Port docks and eased down the waterfront with no running lights. They kept their distance but never lost sight of the trawler. "She's pulling into the Texaco docks. Think we should hold them till the cutter gets here? What do you think, Frank?"

"I say we just wait right here. I've got a bad feeling about this boat. How many shrimpers you know carry hunting rifles and night goggles around with them?"

Around one-thirty a.m. the forty-two-footer from the Fort Macon station pulled alongside the small Coast Guard launch. Bosun's Mate Third Class Weatherby leaped onto the deck of the smaller boat.

"Where's the trawler?"

"Right up against the Texaco sign. Engine is still running, haven't seen anybody topside for the past half-hour."

"Got your service revolvers handy?"

"You damn right."

"Ok, let's check her out."

The small launch moved in alongside the Bobby M. Hall quickly tied a figure eight on the starboard stern cleat and the three officers all stepped up onto the trawler's deck. Hall shined a large handheld spotlight at the wheelhouse. Verheul yelled out for anyone on board.

"Bobby M. this is the United States Coast Guard. Captain, we have boarded your vessel and request you and your crew present yourselves on deck, now."

There was no movement and no response. All three of the officers remembered what Verheul had heard before and the sweat poured from under their dark blue caps as they moved around the boat. Hall shined the spot in every corner and dark crevice until they were convinced that nobody was topside. Verheul went back over to the hold so tightly covered with dark canvas.

"Oh my God, how much grass are we looking at here? Must be fifty or more bales!"

"No Frank, I'd say the whole damn boat is full. We have struck the mother-load. Weatherby picked up his handheld VHF. No longer fearful of alerting the fleeing crew, he called for the forty-two-footer to pull in close. The next call was back to Coast Guard Station Fort Macon headquarters. He had just keyed the mike when he paused and handed it to Verheul.

"Frank, this belongs to you and Rich. You do the honors."

Verheul tried not to break out smiling as he called in.

"Yes Sir, this is Verheul, Switch and answer channel twenty-two."

Both ends changed to a working channel free of dialogue from other vessels in the area.

"We've boarded the trawler Bobby M. at the Texaco docks in Beaufort. Its hold is full of contraband. No Sir, I'd say you're looking at quite a few tons of the stuff. Yes Sir, tons. Yes Sir, we'll stand by till you arrive."

By three a.m., the entire port area was crawling with agents from several government agencies, all eager for a part of the largest drug seizure in the region. Even as investigators poured over the surrounding docks and warehouses, the Bobby M. was seized by the Coast Guard and moved back to Fort Macon station.
TWO FOR THE COAST NAGS HEAD STYLE

The historic ocean-front cottages of Old Nags Head on North Carolina's legendary Outer Banks near the cradle of English settlement in America on Roanoke, built between the Civil War and World War II, are suited to the unpredictable and often hostile environment. These architecturally distinctive, unpainted wood-shingled houses raised on pilings, are characterized by gabled roofs, often with long engaged dormers, sash windows with hinged wood batten shutters held open with a stick, and wrap-around porches where seating is provided by lean-out benches. Situated in a row facing the sea on a mile-long strip of dunes and beach, the weathered survivors testify to a time when summer was a sun-struck interlude marked by the slow rhythms of swimming, fishing, boating, beach-combing and spending time together with family and friends. The 50-plus remaining cottages, many owned by the same families for generations, were designated in 1977 as the Nags Head Beach Cottage Row National Register Historic District. Their stories encompass local and family history, (and national history as well), the creation of an indigenous architectural style, and a knowledge and appreciation of the benefits of unstructured leisure.

Samuel J. Twine, an unassuming but proficient craftsman who hailed from Elizabeth City, built many of the cottages constructed from the early 20th-century through the mid-1940s. Architectural historian Catherine Bishir credits Twine with developing a collection of sturdy, functional and handsome cottages, routinely expanding and remodeling many of them and even moving them on rollers when the sea threatened. Twine's cottages draw upon the one-and-one-half storied elegantly massed and multi-angled bungalow and shingles styles, constructed of a mix of cedar, juniper and cypress woods that weather to shades of silvery grey and brown. Their somewhat formal appearance and absence of paint led former News & Observer editor emeritus Jonathan Daniels to refer to them as “unpainted aristocracy,” a sobriquet which has stuck.

One of the best known is the Toms-Buchanan Cottage, constructed in 1936 for the family of Mattie Toms Buchanan, daughter of Durham's American Tobacco Company magnate Clinton Toms. Mattie Toms married Durham businessman John Adams Buchanan, an insurance and savings and loan executive, and the house, the largest of the historic cottages, was constructed to accommodate their five children and numerous guests. Though reminiscent of the Twine-built cottages, the Toms-Buchanan Cottage was designed by Durham architect Edgar Carr. An arresting composition of gabled rectangles, shed-roofed appendages and sloped roof porches, the home sits on 99 piers and has flanking double balconies on its street-facing L. The numerous porch railings are trimmed in white, the shutters are green and white striped, the lean-out benches are red. Porch window boxes of red geraniums add a welcoming touch.

The interior of the home is finished in juniper and cypress and is distinctive for its spacious living room spanning the oceanfront elevation and featuring a massive brick fireplace. At one end, a fold-down desk is set with an oak arm chair, a gift of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was entertained by the family when he visited Nags Head on the occasion of the 350th birthday of Virginia Dare, the first white child born in America. Playwright Paul Green's groundbreaking outdoor drama The Lost Colony had recently opened, and Eleanor Roosevelt, who had seen the play, recommended it to her husband. Bill Flowers, a grandson of Mattie Toms and John Buchanan, recalls that the family was asked to host the president and his entourage at a private luncheon. "My grandparents had a good cook and other family employees who came to Nags Head to help every summer," says Flowers. "My mother still has the menu the cook prepared. It was typical of summertime on the coast and included crab casserole, ham, summer vegetables, rolls and blueberry cobbler with hard sauce." A guest book set out on the long dining room table is opened to the page that Roosevelt signed.
Green-striped shutters and multiple porches distinguish the Toms-Buchanan Cottage. (right) The inviting great room features a beamed ceiling and large fireplace.

Flowers, who grew up in Richmond, Va. and his Raleigh cousin Randy Coupland have spent virtually every summer of their lives in Nags Head. They remember days of fishing on the beach, crabbing in the sound, and evenings listening to their grandfather tell the children ghost stories. “There was always an indulgent father around who would stand under the house and make ghost noises,” says Flowers. When they were older, Flowers and Coupland frequented the Casino, a nightspot close by in the sandy dunes. “We could walk to it and there was beach music and dancing on the upper floor where we could meet the daughters of our neighbors. Downstairs there were pool tables and a bowling alley,” Flowers remembers.

Built by a Mr. Warren from Edenton, the Toms-Buchanan Cottage has endured seasonal storms and two major moves. The first move was after the 1962 Ash Wednesday Storm, about which Outer Banks historian David Stick has written eloquently; and the second in 1999 as a preservation effort to anticipate the encroaching ocean. “The first move was done after the storm blew away a portion of the dining room wall,” says Flowers. “Neighbors found windows with the curtains still clinging to them. They recognized the curtains as ours and brought the salvage back to us.” Flowers notes that the roof of the Toms-Buchanan Cottage has always held, perhaps because of the home’s heavy construction. The studs run from the first floor to the second floor ceiling and the roof joists are tied to that structure. The second move in 1999 was performed by the Matico family of Virginia Beach, part of the team that moved the Hatteras Lighthouse. “They built a joist structure and strapped the sills to it with 3/4-inch straps,” Flowers noted. “They began on December 21 and finished December 23, in time to be home for Christmas.”

So the familiar routine of opening up the Toms-Buchanan Cottage in April with a mothers’ house-cleaning party, and closing it in October when the best weather of the season is over, continues with reassuring regularity for the extended family who have summered there for 70 years.
Built by Fran Colangelo of King Post Construction, this Figure Eight Island house reflects the architectural style of Nag's Head's historic Cottage Row.
NAGS HEAD STYLE ON FIGURE EIGHT ISLAND

Though he never saw Figure Eight Island down the coast near Wilmington, or even knew it existed, Nags Head master-builder Samuel Twine would feel quite at home in the ocean-front house designed on the exclusive resort by Chapel Hill architect Dale Dixon. Dixon’s lifelong friend Steve Coggins and wife Louise Weeks Coggins commissioned the architect to design their new beach house after the original one on the site had been destroyed by Hurricane Fran. “If I were to name this house, I’d call it Twine’s Tribute,” says Steve. “Both Louise and I grew up visiting Old Nags Head cottages in the summertime, and we loved the feel of them and what they represented to us.” Dixon took the Cogginses’ wish list of open space and lots of light in a traditional Nags Head cottage and transposed it into a contemporary home with many familiar architectural elements. The home offers a trio of dormers across the east and west elevations, hip-roofed wraparound porches, an enclosed lower level accented by cross-tied supports reminiscent of the openwork pilings beneath the old cottages, and a simple gracious appeal.

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Though set on pilings which delve deep, the lower level of the Coggins House is usable space with a garage, powder room and a recreation space that also functions as an at-home office for the professional couple. Floored in antique brick—which Louise points out is easy maintenance for sandy feet—the lower level opens to an outdoor covered area housing a Ping-Pong table, rope hammocks and storage for beach toys. The main level is a spacious great room/living area that accommodates dining, an island kitchen, a game table and a sitting area. The cathedral ceiling rises above an array of windows and frames an open staircase and beam-supported catwalk.

It is Steve's love and knowledge of antique wood, as well as Dixon's clean-limbed design that make the great room a spectacular space. "I wanted to use all reclaimed antique wood which would have been here during Virginia Dare's time," says Steve. "We have the traditional woods of the Outer Banks—pine, spruce, cypress, cedar and Douglas fir." The woods are used to good advantage, blending beautifully together while distinguishing one part of the great room from the others. Antique pine is used on the floors and in the extensive furniture cabinetry making the kitchen workable, yet elegant. Douglas fir beams are joined shipwright fashion beneath the catwalk, and a table of perfectly matched curly maple invites dining or just admiring.

The main level contains two bedrooms and a cedar-sheathed sleeping porch that opens to two exterior stairways sheltered by porches. The sleeping porch is a favorite haunt of Louise's many nieces and nephews and the couple's 14 godchildren, as well as children and dogs of friends. "We have beds for 20 people, plus pull-out mattresses," says Louise. The upper level bedrooms are divided by the catwalk, whose lines blend into halls that bisect the house laterally, an organizing principle that creates amazing views. "I think looking out the great-room windows from the catwalk is a bit like being on a ship," says Steve. Each end of the hall features bedrooms and enclosed bay areas dubbed the Sunrise Bay and the Sunset Bay. Built-in...
banquettes provide comfortable seating from which to enjoy views of the Inland Waterway, the sound and the ocean.

Louise's décor is playful and makes use of furniture from both their families, as well as some pieces from the early years of their married life. "Steve laughingly refers to our early Nash and Edgecombe attic pieces," says Louise, "and I kept the 1973 geometric gold-brown spreads and bedroom suit we started with in a guest room. The guest room contains my grandmother's vanity table mixed with other antique pieces." The master bedroom is a cozy aerie lined with narrow-board heart pine and made to feel like the attic cubbies the couple remembered from their summertime stays in the Old Nags Head cottages. High windows give a view to the night sky and a sense of security and comfort.

In addition to the open, light-filled house Steve and Louise described to architect and friend Dale Dixon, the couple wanted a home that would accommodate large and small groups and be a personal retreat. As their work with Dixon progressed, they realized that their Figure
Traditional lean-out benches add a touch of Nags Head to a romantic sitting deck.

Eight residence could be more than a laid-back beach house that they commute to on weekends and in the summer from their home in Raleigh. It could be their principal residence and a perfect entertainment venue for family, friends and colleagues who work with them in several non-profit groups for social causes. Thus, five years after the destruction of their first Figure Eight house and the day after the fateful events of September 11, 2001, the couple decided they would move into their new-old island home upon its completion. "We wanted to simplify our lives and devote more of our financial and emotional resources to things that were more meaningful," says Louise. Deeply committed to social and humane causes, particularly the plight of enslaved and abused women and children, the Cogginses are now able to spend more time traveling and speaking on behalf of these issues. They each commute into Wilmington where Louise is a practicing psychotherapist and Steve is a civil litigator with the firm of Rountree, Losee and Baldwin; yet they still maintain their personal and professional ties to the Triangle. Steve often comes to Raleigh to work on legal matters and visit family, and Louise is currently serving as Chair of the Board of the School of Social Work at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Toms-Buchanan Cottage, a 1936 classic beach cottage, and the Coggins Figure Eight home provide more than architectural style and ocean-side living. They show the way to set aside personal time for themselves, family and friends and find pleasure in nature while living in a complex and busy world.

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Presenting the Seventh Annual

MetroBravo Awards

Part 1

Wag Pet Boutique
AND THE WINNERS ARE....

Not only does the arrival of summer mean rising temperatures, the sizzling sun also heralds the announcement of what's hot in the area based on the results of over 3,000 ballots in the Seventh Annual MetroBravo! readers' poll. Whether you're looking for the perfect place to buy a cute couture sundress, where to take that much-needed getaway, tips on how to re-decorate your home or a suggestion for what book to toss into your beach bag, Part One of the results offers recommendations by Metro readers about the best from local retailers and local and national media.

This year's voters showed their affinity for luxury merchandise, giving a nod in multiple categories to last year's newcomer, Saks Fifth Avenue; and the newest addition to the area's retail circuit—Brier Creek Shopping Center—also grabbed readers' attention and garnered enough votes to put them on the Metro map. Check out the winners in the fashion category for more.

Readers facing the arduous task of summer renovations, or those simply wanting to add some decorative flair to their home décor, can peruse the retail section and discover the best place to purchase carpet, fabrics, art and antiques.

The media section gets Metro readers plugged in with new categories for best in cool media, including online news, weather, sports and music store sites. There is also information about more traditional cool media—such as the best television and radio personalities—and old-fashioned hot media choices for best fiction and non-fiction.

For those planning a much-needed vacation, Bravo awards offer suggestions for the best hotels and resorts at the beach, the mountains, or on the golf course. And whether you're looking to make a stylish getaway or save some gas money, peruse the car dealership categories for places to buy a luxury auto, sports car or a cost-efficient hybrid.

Next month the August issue presents the best in food and wine, the top health clubs and spas, the right realtors, where to dance and dine, the most prestigious schools and universities, and the most advanced hospitals and health care facilities.

Thanks to our readers for their votes and congratulations to the winners of the Seventh Annual MetroBravo! Awards.

by Jennifer Hadra and Dan Reeves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FASHION</th>
<th>MEN'S CLOTHING STORE</th>
<th>MEN'S FORMAL WEAR</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALL</td>
<td>Standing Ovation</td>
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<td>Crabtree Valley, Raleigh</td>
<td>Nowell's Clothing, Raleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>MetroBravo</td>
<td>The Streets at Southpoint, Durham</td>
<td>MetroBravo</td>
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<td>Honorável Mention</td>
<td>Triangle Town Center, Raleigh</td>
<td>Cameron Village, Raleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHOPPING CENTER</td>
<td>Standing Ovation</td>
<td>Standing Ovation</td>
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<td>North Hills, Raleigh</td>
<td>Nowell's Clothing, Raleigh</td>
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<td>MetroBravo</td>
<td>Brier Creek, Raleigh</td>
<td>MetroBravo</td>
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<td>Honorável Mention</td>
<td>Brier Creek, Raleigh</td>
<td>Nordstrom, Durham</td>
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<td>Close Calls</td>
<td>Crossroads Plaza, Cary</td>
<td>Honorável Mention</td>
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<td>MetroBravo</td>
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<td>Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh</td>
<td>Nordstrom, Durham</td>
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<td>Standing Ovation</td>
<td>Honorável Mention</td>
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<td>Quintessential, Raleigh</td>
<td>Frances T. King Stationary, Raleigh</td>
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<td>MetroBravo</td>
<td>Charlotte's, Raleigh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorável Mention</td>
<td>Frances T. King Stationary, Raleigh</td>
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<th>Nowell's Clothing</th>
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36 JULY 2006 METROMAGAZINE
**Crabtree/Brier Creek**

This year's voters showed a love for all things new—and old, voting the recently opened Brier Creek shopping center as one of the areas' best outdoor plazas and Crabtree Valley, Raleigh's oldest mall, as the area's best mall. While Brier Creek offers a variety of shops like Dick's Sporting Goods, Barnes & Noble and Linens-n-Things, for people with all shopping needs and interests, Crabtree Valley is home to fashion staples like Banana Republic, Hudson Belk and J Crew. Brier Creek's sprawling location near I-540 and RDU airport makes the shopping center easily accessible and open to future growth. But don't think that age has stunted Crabtree's growth either. The recent opening of Lacoste offers men and women a variety of brightly colored polo shirts for the warm summer months and in September, the opening of Macy's department store will bring an old favorite to a new location.

**PLACE FOR KID'S CLOTHING**

**Standing Ovation**

Lamb's Ear, Raleigh

**MetroBravo**

Children's Place, Raleigh

**Honorable Mention**

Gap Kids, Triangle-wide

**BEST PLACE FOR MEN’S CASUALWEAR**

**Standing Ovation**

Nowell's Clothing, Raleigh

**MetroBravo**

Belk, Triangle-wide

**Honorable Mention**

Norman Stockton, Chapel Hill

**TIES**

**Standing Ovation**

Nowell's Clothing, Raleigh

**MetroBravo**

Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh

**Honorable Mention**

Varsity Mens Wear, Raleigh

**BEST PLACE FOR WOMEN’S CLOTHING STORE**

**Standing Ovation**

Vermillion, Raleigh

**MetroBravo**

Beanie + Cecil, Raleigh

**Honorable Mention**

Razook's, Raleigh

**Close Call**

Scout & Molly's, Raleigh

**Quintessentials**

We thank the readers of Metro Magazine for voting us First Place in the MetroBravo Awards for Best Gift Store

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Vermillion

Contemplating a trip to New York to snag the new summer styles from designers like Zac Posen, Lucy Sykes or Derek Lam? Before booking that flight, check out posh boutique Vermillion in Raleigh’s North Hills. Owner Ashley Vermillion Harris brings the runways to Raleigh with a wide range of items and prices that target customers on the cutting edge of fashion. Whether you’re in search of the perfect cocktail dress or a new Balenciaga bag, the experience of shopping at Vermillion guarantees you’ll leave a satisfied customer.

FUR COAT

Standing Ovation
Hertzberg Furs, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Serotta’s of Raleigh, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh

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Bailey's Fine Jewelry

Be it their smooth texture, round shape or neutral color, a pearl necklace adds a classic touch to any ensemble. Bailey's Fine Jewelry, this year's standing ovation winner for best place to buy pearls, offers customers one of the area's largest selections of the internationally renowned Mikimoto pearls. The store's in-house pearl stringer Jeanette Baugh provides customers with repairing and restringing services for their delicate strands. According to Baugh, the task of tying tight, evenly spaced knots out of silk thread makes pearl stringing a tedious task. Regardless, Baugh admits she loves being able to "play with beads" at work every day.

HANDBAG
Standing Ovation
Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh
MetroBravo
Main & Taylor, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Coach, Raleigh

LINGERIE
Standing Ovation
Victoria's Secret, Raleigh
MetroBravo 2006

**VERMILLION**

Bailey's Fine Jewelry

Saks Fifth Avenue

BATHING SUIT
Standing Ovation
J. Crew, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Belk, Triangle-wide

Honorable Mention
Beanie + Cecil, Raleigh

DESIGNER JEWELRY
Standing Ovation
Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

MetroBravo
Elaine Miller Collection, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Jewelsmith, Durham

ESTATE JEWELRY
Standing Ovation
Elaine Miller Collection, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

Honorable Mention
Joint Ventures Estate Jewelers, Cary

**NEW FOR FALL**

adam + eve
balenciaga
tory burch
michael kors
derek lam
rachel roy
zac posen
proenza schouler
lucy sykes
temperley

MetroBravo
Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
J. Alanes, Raleigh

MATERNITY CLOTHING
Standing Ovation
Cravings, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Pea in the Pod, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Posh Pregnancy, Raleigh

Jolly's Jewelers

MetroBravo
Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
J. Alanes, Raleigh

BAKING SUIT
Standing Ovation
J. Crew, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Belk, Triangle-wide

Honorable Mention
Beanie + Cecil, Raleigh

DESIGNER JEWELRY
Standing Ovation
Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

MetroBravo
Elaine Miller Collection, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Jewelsmith, Durham

ESTATE JEWELRY
Standing Ovation
Elaine Miller Collection, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

Honorable Mention
Joint Ventures Estate Jewelers, Cary

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WWW.VERMILLIONSTYLE.COM

JULY 2006 METROMAGAZINE
MetroBravo
Jolly's Jewelers, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Haydon & Company, Raleigh

**Watches**

*Standing Ovation*
JM Edwards, Cary

MetroBravo
Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

Honorable Mention
Jolly's Jewelers, Raleigh
Haydon & Company, Raleigh

**Sunglasses**

*Standing Ovation*
Saks Fifth Avenue, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Sunglass Hut, Triangle-wide

---

**Wedding Rings**

*Standing Ovation*
Bailey’s Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

MetroBravo
Jolly’s Jewelers, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Johnson’s Jewelers, Raleigh

Close Call
JM Edwards, Cary

**Pearls**

*Standing Ovation*
Bailey’s Fine Jewelry, Raleigh and Rocky Mount

---

Save 20% storewide July 13–15
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Bridal Registry & Gifts
Honorable Mention
20/20 Eyeworks, Triangle-wide

PERFUME
Standing Ovation
Belk, Triangle-wide
MetroBravo
Sephora, Raleigh

HONORABLE MENTION
Luxe Apothecary, Raleigh

SKIN CARE PRODUCTS
Standing Ovation
Luxe Apothecary, Raleigh
MetroBravo
Sephora, Raleigh

HONORABLE MENTION
Belk, Raleigh

Close Call
Personal Image Center, Raleigh

PRESCRIPTION EYE GLASSES
Standing Ovation
LensCrafters, Raleigh
MetroBravo
20/20 Eyeworks, Triangle-wide

RETAIL

BED
Standing Ovation
Fred's Beds, Raleigh
MetroBravo
Ethan Allen, Triangle-wide

Traditions

Thanks for voting us Best Bridal Shop!

North Hills
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www.traditionsbridalshop.com

Tamara Lackey Photography
Honorable Mention
Porto, Raleigh

KITCHEN APPLIANCES
Standing Ovation
Lowe's, Triangle-wide
MetroBravo
Sears, Triangle-wide

Honorable Mention
Jeffries Appliance Center, Raleigh

Close Call
Ferguson, Raleigh

LAMPS
Standing Ovation
Thompson Lynch, Raleigh
MetroBravo
Highsmith Home, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Pottery Barn, Triangle-wide

ANTIQUES
Standing Ovation
Regency Antiques & Art, Raleigh
MetroBravo
George R. McNeill Fine Antiques & Interiors, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Glenwood South, Raleigh
Regan Lewis Antiques, Raleigh

Thank you.

As proud recipient of the 2006 Standing Ovation Award, we thank our valued customers for voting Enterprise Rent-A-Car your favorite car rental company!

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THE PERFECT RENTAL PACKAGE - RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
**FABRICS**
- Standing Ovation
  - Printer's Alley, Raleigh
- MetroBravo
  - Decorative Fabrics, Raleigh
- Honorable Mention
  - Mill Outlet Village, Raleigh

**CARPET**
- Standing Ovation
  - Eatmans Carpets & Interiors, Raleigh
- MetroBravo
  - Brentwood Carpets, Triangle-wide
- Honorable Mention
  - Bells Carpets Inc., Raleigh

**ORIENTAL RUG**
- Standing Ovation
  - Capel Rug Outlet, Raleigh
- MetroBravo
  - Green Front Interiors & Rugs, Raleigh
- Honorable Mention
  - Persian Carpet, Raleigh

**HOME MEDIA SYSTEM**
- Standing Ovation
  - Audio Advice, Raleigh
- MetroBravo
  - Bose, Durham
- Honorable Mention
  - Advanced Audio, Triangle-wide

**DRY CLEANER**
- Standing Ovation
  - Brothers Cleaners, Raleigh
- MetroBravo
  - Medlin Davis, Raleigh
- Honorable Mention
  - Hangers Cleaners, Raleigh

**HISTORIC SOUTHERN ELEGANCE IN THE HEART OF CHAPEL HILL**

Charming historic inn featuring Chef Brian Stapleton's award winning cuisine.

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2006 Mobil Travel Guide

**TAILOR**
- Standing Ovation
  - Lee's Tailor Shop, Triangle-wide
- MetroBravo
  - Best Tailoring, Raleigh
- Honorable Mention
  - Exclusive Alterations, Raleigh

**DRUG STORE**
- Standing Ovation
  - Eckerd, Triangle-wide
- MetroBravo
  - Kerr Drug, Triangle-wide
- Honorable Mention
  - CVS, Triangle-wide
In the age of Blue tooths and Blackberries, letter writing is an antiquated form of communication for most people. One walk through the doors of Frances T. King Stationery, however, and customers are transformed back to the days of handwritten correspondence. The store offers a cornucopia of notepads, cards, and invitations by designers such as Crane & Co. The wide variety of colors and designs as well as the availability of in-store monogramming allows customers to add their personal touch to nearly every message. Those juggling a hectic schedule will also be interested in the assortment of journals and day planners by Kate Spade, Vera Bradley and more.

MetroBravo
Yves Delorme, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Bed, Bath & Beyond, Triangle-wide

OUTDOOR CLOTHING
Standing Ovation
REI, Triangle-wide

MetroBravo
Great Outdoor Provision Co., Triangle-wide

Honorable Mention
Dick's Sporting Goods, Triangle-wide

GOLF EQUIPMENT
Standing Ovation
Carolina Custom Golf, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Dick's Sporting Goods, Triangle-wide

Honorable Mention
Golf Galaxy, Cary

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Hilton
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MetroBravo
Maus Piano & Organ, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Ruggero Piano & Organ, Raleigh

STATIONERY
Standing Ovation
Frances T. King Stationery, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Taylors Fine Papers and Gifts, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Swoozies, Raleigh

CHILDREN'S TOYS
Standing Ovation
Tookie's Toys, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Learning Express Toys, Cary and Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Toys "R" Us, Triangle-wide

COMPUTER ACCESSORIES
Standing Ovation
Best Buy, Triangle-wide

MetroBravo
Apple Store, Durham
Honorable Mention
Circuit City, Triangle-wide

PET BOUTIQUE/SALON
Standing Ovation
Wag Pet Boutique, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Canine Country Club, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Hair of the Dog, Raleigh

BOAT
Standing Ovation
Chatlee Boat & Marine, Sanford
Boat and Marine
Landlocked is not a term used when complaining about North Carolina. We are blessed with the mighty Atlantic to the east and dozens of rivers and recreational lakes west to the majestic mountains. For a great deal of North Carolinians the water is nearly as common as the ground we walk on and when it comes time to purchase a boat, the top choice for Metro readers is Chatlee Boat & Marine located in Sanford, NC. Since 1967, this family owned establishment has built an impeccable reputation on valuing each customer. On top of winning a MetroBravo award, Chatlee Boat & Marine also landed a spot in Boating Industry Magazine’s Top 10 this year. They offer five indoor showrooms, a ten acre test lake and over 250 boats and jet-skis in stock and on site.

MetroBravo
West Marine, State-wide
Honorable Mention
MarineMax, Wrightsville

MARINA
Standing Ovation
70 West Marina, Atlantic Beach
MetroBravo
Coral Bay Marina, Morehead City, Wilmington
Honorable Mention
Pages Creek, Wilmington

MEDIA
REGIONAL TV PERSONALITY
Standing Ovation
David Crabtree, WRAL-TV5
MetroBravo
Steve Daniels, WTVD
Honorable Mention
Pam Saulsby, WRAL-TV5
Larry Stogner, WTVD

NATIONAL TV PERSONALITY
Standing Ovation
Oprah Winfrey, ABC Oprah Winfrey Show
MetroBravo
Katie Couric, Today Show
Honorable Mention
Diane Sawyer, ABC Good Morning America

RADIO PERSONALITY
Standing Ovation
Rush Limbaugh
MetroBravo
Bill & Sherri, Mix 101.5 WRAL-FM

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MetroBravo 2006

Honorable Mention
Don Imus, WFAN

WEATHER PERSONALITY
Standing Ovation
Greg Fischel, WRAL-TV5

MetroBravo
Elizabeth Gardner, WRAL-TV5

Honorable Mention
Mike Maze, WRAL-TV5
Bill Reh, WNCN

WRAL.com
This year www.wral.com took first place for best online news source. Headlines on the local and national level, combined with up-to-the-minute weather and traffic reports, keep Channel 5 on your side 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

LOCAL POLITICIAN
Standing Ovation
Elizabeth Dole, State Senator
MetroBravo
Philip Isley, Raleigh City Councilman

Honorable Mention
Richard Moore, State Treasurer

ONLINE NEWS
Standing Ovation
WRAL.com

Online Music
Music lovers know that iTunes is the definitive online music source today. That is, if you are playing by the rules. The availability of music online has done wonders for those musicians trying to get their material to the public. Unfortunately, illegal downloading has taken its toll on the industry at large, causing record companies to lose money from album sales. iTunes offers a legal and abundant reserve of music to subscribers by pricing each song at only 99 cents (roughly $10 an album). The simplicity of purchasing is matched by the organizational software that comes with the program. Making mixes has reached a whole new level: iTunes will recognize genres and suggest other artists that you may like. While some may find such assumptive programming intrusive, with iTunes all it is doing is opening new doors. Some bands even feature songs or entire albums exclusively on iTunes. You can even download the album cover art.

MetroBravo
CNN.com

Honorable Mention
MSNBC.com

ONLINE SPORTS
Standing Ovation
ESPN.com

ONLINE WEATHER
Standing Ovation
weather.com

MetroBravo
wral.com

Honorable Mention
wunderground.com

ONLINE MUSIC STORE
Standing Ovation
iTunes

MetroBravo
Amazon.com

FICTION BOOK
Standing Ovation
The Da Vinci Code, Dan Brown

MetroBravo
The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

Honorable Mention
The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd

NON-FICTION BOOK
Standing Ovation
The World is Flat, Thomas L. Friedman

MetroBravo
Marley & Me, John Grogan

Honorable Mention
The Bible

The Da Vinci Code
Surprised? Dan Brown's sensational novel has maintained a steady position on the New York Times best seller list since its debut in 2003, at least in paper back. This year's votes may have been affected by the resurgence of Da Vinci fever due to the release of Ron Howard's film adaptation of the controversial novel. Brown managed to get under the skin of religious groups causing the formation of study groups and protests worldwide.

LOCAL AUTHOR
Standing Ovation
Nicolas Sparks
MetroBravo
Kaye Gibbons

Honorable Mention
David Sedaris
Margaret Maron

LOCAL ARTIST
Standing Ovation
Kyle Highsmith
Capital Style or White Horse

It was Game Seven of the Stanley Cup Finals and your party of eight needed to arrive in plenty of time to see the first face-off. Under most circumstances getting out to the RBC Center is a hassle. This is when you call Capital Style, North Carolina’s leading transportation service that can accommodate any occasion in comfort and style. Offering a fleet of luxury limousines, sedans and party buses, Capital Style is nothing short of the premium transportation service in the Triangle. Second place winner, White Horse Transportation has been serving area revelers with dependable van, SUV and car service with affordable rates for over 10 years.

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- Antique White 1960 Bentley Sedan
- New Corporate Lincoln Town Car Sedans
- New Corporate S 500 Mercedes Sedans

LIMOUSINE / CAR SERVICE
Standing Ovation
White Horse Transportation, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Capital Style Luxury Transportation, Raleigh

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CITY HOTEL
Standing Ovation
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh
MetroBravo
The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill
Honorable Mention
Sheraton Hotel, Downtown Raleigh

COASTAL HOTEL
Standing Ovation
Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, Wrightsville Beach
MetroBravo
Blockade Runner, Wrightsville Beach
Honorable Mention
Landfall Park Hampton Inn and Suites, Wilmington
Hampton Inn and Suites, Morehead City

HOTEL FOR OUT OF TOWN GUESTS
Standing Ovation
The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill
MetroBravo
Embassy Suites Hotel Raleigh – Crabtree
Honorable Mention
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, Raleigh

HOTEL FOR MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS
Standing Ovation
Hilton North Raleigh
MetroBravo
Sheraton Hotel, Downtown Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Embassy Suites Hotel Raleigh – Crabtree

COASTAL HOTEL FOR MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS
Standing Ovation
Blockade Runner, Wrightsville Beach
MetroBravo
Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, Wrightsville Beach
Honorable Mention
Hilton Wilmington Riverside, Wilmington

NC BEACH RESORT
Standing Ovation
Bald Head Island, Southport

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MetroBravo
The Sanderling Resort and Spa, Duck

Honorable Mention
Figure Eight Island, near Wilmington

NC Mountain Resort
Standing Ovation
Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa, Asheville

MetroBravo
Inn On Biltmore Estate, Asheville

Honorable Mention
Chetola Mountain Resort, Blowing Rock

Close Call
Eseola Lodge, Linville

Resort Spa
Standing Ovation
Pinehurst Resort, Pinehurst

MetroBravo
Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa, Asheville

Honorable Mention

Golf Resort
Standing Ovation
Pinehurst, NC

MetroBravo
Kiawah Island, SC

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MetroBravo 2006

Honorable Mention
Grandover Resort and Conference Center, Greensboro

HOME LIFE

FLORIST
Standing Ovation
Fallon's Creative Flowers, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Kelly Odom Flowers, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Carlton's Flowers, Raleigh

GARDEN CENTER / NURSERY
Standing Ovation
Logan's Trading Company, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Atlantic Nursery, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Homewood Nursery, Inc, Raleigh

Garden Supply Company, Cary

PLACE TO OWN A SECOND HOME
Standing Ovation
Wrightsville Beach, NC

MetroBravo
Bald Head Island, NC

Honorable Mention
Figure Eight Island, near Wilmington

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT
Standing Ovation
Landfall, Wilmington

MetroBravo
Bald Head Island, Southport

Honorable Mention
Figure Eight Island, near Wilmington

PLACE TO BUY:

CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE
Standing Ovation
Nowell's Contemporary and Scandinavian Furniture, Raleigh

MetroBravo
Cherry Modern Design, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
The Ambiente Collection, Raleigh

TRADITIONAL FURNITURE
Standing Ovation
Ethan Allen, Nationwide

MetroBravo
Green Front Interiors and Rugs, Raleigh

Honorable Mention
Expressions Custom Furniture, Raleigh

BEACH HOUSE FURNITURE
Standing Ovation
Wicker Gallery, Raleigh

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MetroBravo
Seaboard Imports, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Pottery Barn, Triangle-wide
OUTDOOR FURNITURE
Standing Ovation
Summer Classics, Raleigh
MetroBravo
Smith & Hawken, Raleigh
Honorable Mention
Firehouse Casual Living Store, Raleigh

AUTOMOTIVE
CAR DEALERSHIP
Standing Ovation
Johnson Lexus of Raleigh
MetroBravo
Land Rover, Cary
Honorable Mention
Fred Anderson Toyota, Raleigh
SUV
Standing Ovation
Lexus RX
MetroBravo
Land Rover
Honorable Mention
Chevrolet Tahoe

CHETOLA RESORT
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This summer, come up and cool off in a beautiful condominium or lodge room and get a $25 gift card to Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway.

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DSW • Marshalls
FootAction USA
ULTA • Michaels
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Hybrid Cars

With the recent increase in gas prices, some readers have turned to hybrid cars to help the environment...and a chunk of change. This year the Toyota Prius was voted best hybrid car by Metro readers. This parallel hybrid automobile uses an electric motor combined with a small reserve of gasoline to operate. The Prius comes in several styles, offering all of the amenities of a luxury automobile. While the hybrid phenomenon has been mostly a West Coast sensation, North Carolinians are jumping on board to save the planet and money.

Honorable Mention

Fred Anderson Toyota, Raleigh

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PIER FISHING WITH DAD
by Mel Lewis

The Triple S pier on Atlantic Beach was torn down two months ago. The Sportsman's Pier may suffer a similar fate soon. Pretty soon they will all be gone—victims of escalating real estate prices. If you grew up within three- to four-hours drive of "da beach" in the ‘60s, chances are you spent part of your youth "pier fishing." I did and those memories came rushing back as I read this latest story of "progress." ....

We lived about two hours from "Morehead." Straight down Highway 70 past Dover and Cove City, the Tuscarora Fire Tower and the straightest stretch of road I believe I've ever seen. Fifteen miles straight as a string. There was no bypass around New Bern back then. The New Bern Fire Station had a bear over its door. Then to Havelock past "the kicking machine" and Dick Parker Motors at Cherry Point: The World War II jet outside the entrance to Cherry Point Marine Air Station was "cool." Around here you started to smell the salt air.

There was a dog track on the outskirts of "Morehead." Yes, its name is Morehead City, but we just called it "Morehead." Rex Restaurant and The DoNut House on the right. You knew you were "at the beach" when you passed the marinas with their yachts.

My grandmother had a beach house at 2709 Evans Street in Morehead right on the Sound about three blocks from the bridge to Atlantic Beach. She would move down on Memorial Day and stay through Labor Day. There was no air conditioning in the house, but the breeze off the sound made for the best sleeping ever. If Grandmother was in the house, sometimes we would go down on Friday night; otherwise we would leave home "real early" Saturday morning to catch the tides right. High tide is the best fishing, of course.

The Triple S was "our pier." I'm not sure why, but everybody just had "their favorite pier." One of my pals had a beach house about 100 yards from The Sportsman's Pier, next to Coury's Villa. That was "his pier." We tried the Oceana a few times between the Triple S and Sportsman. Maybe we liked it because the Triple S was the closest to Fort Macon at the eastern end of Bogue Banks. I don't recall what a day-pass cost back then. Dad took care of all that. I suspect it was around $5. The pier house had a little restaurant that served a good hearty breakfast and burgers and such throughout the day.

We weren't real serious fishermen. We started out with regular spool reels but graduated to "spinning reels" as technology advanced. My dad and I shared a tackle box. We had a few lures but mainly we used shrimp on double-hook rigs. We bought the fresh shrimp from the man in the pier house. It came in a plastic bag.

When we planned a trip I would practice casting in our back yard a few days prior. I would pick out one of Mom's azalea bushes and try to drop the plug in front.

When I was very little, I was always afraid I would let go of the rod and it would fly off into the ocean. It never did.

Mainly we caught "spots"—about the size of your hand. They gave a good pull, especially if we caught two at a time. Sometimes we caught croakers. In the fall we caught "skates," which were small sting rays, basically trash "fish." Flounders put up a good fight because of their flat shape in the water.

When we were using spool reels we always cast "overhead." You had to make sure no one was walking behind you. Spool reels would "backlash" if you weren't a good caster. Later, with "spinning reels" you could "flip" the line out by leaning out over the railing and tossing the bait underneath.

The big excitement came when "the blues were running." Everyone got out "seahawks" and "mirrolures" and bumbled where they thought the school of blues were. Catching a "blue" was a big thrill as even a small one put up a big fight.

I recall that nobody got mad with each other. Once you established your bench or place along the rail everyone respected your space. I wonder if that is still the case? Probably not. "Pier civility" probably went to hell along with civility in everything else... sigh, sob, sniff.

Way out on the end of the pier was where "the king mackerel guys" hung out. We never tried that. I was never comfortable "way out on the end of the pier."

As my dad and I sat on our bench waiting for "a bite," I'm not sure what we talked about. I think we "just talked." No great life lessons exchanged... just dad and I "pier fishing." When the tide was going out there wasn't much action, so we just sorta sat and watched the tip of our rods.

For years I thought Europe was "out there." One day I looked at a map and realized that Bogue Banks ran east and west and not north and south—that is still confusing.

We would leave in the late afternoon after the last high tide. Dad drove. I would be tired from being out in the sun all day and would usually fall asleep around New Bern.

Other piers were built down toward Emerald Isle. Thompson Steel Pier and Iron Steamer were two I remember. Every new pier was supposedly over "the best fishing hole" in the area.

Hurricanes hit fishing piers like tornados look for trailer parks. "Hazel—The Hurricane to end all hurricanes" wiped out a few of them. They would be rebuilt—until recently.

Daddy died during my junior year at Chapel Hill while I was at Super Bowl II. I left the area and chased corporate rainbows for 20 years. When Grandmother died in the mid-'70s "the family" decided to sell the beach house and divide the money rather than squabble over who got it. Being a quite dysfunctional bunch, squabbling was a likelihood. Morehead realtor Chuck Sledge told me last week that house would probably bring $1.5 million in today's market... Yikes!

When my daughter was old enough, we took her to "da beach" and we walked out on the piers. She has absolutely no interest in fishing. "Yucky" was her description. My dad and I bonded through "pier fishing" at "da beach." My daughter and wife and I bond by shopping at "da Mall."

Memo to Dad: I always kinda figure you are reading these silly musings. Did you think I'd forget "pier fishing"? No way... thanks, Dad!

Mel Lewis' commentaries about growing up in eastern North Carolina and about ACC Sports can be found under his pseudonym, "BobLee Swagger," online at his website, www.Swagger Says.com.
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SHAG BABY
In the '50s and '60s, black and middle-class white teenagers formed a friendship based on Shag dancing. In a new book, *Shagging in the Carolinas*, Fessa John Hook writes about this unlikely collaboration between the two social classes, as well as the historic and romantic essence of Shag dancing in North and South Carolina.

Described by Hook as a "public, social and yet intensely personal story," the multicultural roots of Shag and beach music extend from the northern shores of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, down to the southern sands of Myrtle Beach. Hook writes about Shag venues including the Coachman and IV, the Cellar, the Bushes, the Beach Club and the Embers Clubs as the "jump joints" for shag and beach music competitions. The book includes 200 vintage images that display the cultural revolution brought about by the pioneers and iconoclasts of this peculiar coastal Carolina dance phenomenon.

Hook encountered the Shag in 1975. He has researched the world of beach music, becoming an editor and writer of one of the first beach music history magazines. In the late 1980s, he developed the first full-time beach music radio station. For more information about Hook or Shagging in the Carolinas, visit www.shagginginthecarolinas.com.

—Jennifer Hadra
MUSEUM OF THE ALBEMARLE SHOP OPENS WITH COASTAL WARES

The Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City has opened a new shop with a nautical setting and merchandise representing North Carolina's coastal traditions. Selections include handmade pottery, baskets, toys, locally created specialty foods, jewelry, books about the region and other items for all ages. All profits help fund programs and educational projects at the Museum of the Albemarle and other state history museums.

The shop is owned and operated by the NC Museum of History Associates, a statewide organization that provides assistance to seven state history museums. Lynn Brower, director of retail operations at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh, designed the Elizabeth City store. The new shop is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 252-331-4026 or access www.museumofthealbemarle.com.

Volunteers are needed to work in the Museum Shop for several hours on weekdays or weekends. If interested, contact Delores Spencer at 252-331-4026 or dgspencer@earthlink.net.

Coastal News compiled by Jennifer Hadra.

COASTAL PREVIEW

Cape Fear 7s Rugby Tournament: July 1 & 2. The oldest and largest 7-a-side weekend rugby tournament in the country, with 60+ teams from throughout the U.S and other countries. Wilmington. Visit www.fearrugby.com or call 910-264-5277.


Pepsi Americas' Sail 2006: July 1-5. Tall ships gather in Beaufort for a parade, tours and other entertainment. Visit www.nctallships.com or call 800-637-8158.


Hot Wax Surf Camp: Thru July 30. Voted best curriculum on the East Coast, the camp offers instruction from real surfer and guest pros. Beaufort. Visit www.hotwaxsurf.com or
call 252-354-6466.

"The Lost Colony" Backstage Tours: Thru Aug. 18. The 45-minute walking tour includes the costume shop, dressing room, an up-close look at the set and a chance to interact with the actors. **Outer Banks;** visit www.thelostcolony.org or 252-473-3414.

**Carteret County Curb Market:** Saturdays through Labor Day. The oldest continuously operating curb market in North Carolina, offers produce, local seafood and more. **Morehead City.** Call 252-222-6359.

Street Dance and Fireworks Display: July 3. Kick off the 4th of July at **Carolina Beach** with fireworks and festivities at dusk. Visit www.pleasureislandnc.org or 910-458-8434.

**Battleship Blast:** July 4. Riverfront celebration includes performances by 440th Army Band, battleship tours and fireworks display. **Historic Wilmington.** Visit www.battleship-nc.com or call 910-251-5797.

4th of July Cruise: July 4. The **Henrietta III** Riverboat hosts an evening cruise with buffet dinner and great view of fireworks over the Cape Fear River. **Wilmington.** Visit www.cfrboats.com or call 910-343-1611.

**Independence Day Celebration:** July 4. Family-oriented activities include a fife and drum parade, free tours of Tryon Palace Gardens, waterfront concerts and fireworks display. **Tryon Palace, New Bern.** Visit www.tryonpalace.org or call 800-767-1560.


First Friday on Roanoke Island: Historic Downtown **Manteo** comes alive with music, shopping, dining and special events. Call 252-473-5121.

**Classy-Chassis Car Show & Country Flea Market:** July 8. Antique and classic cars and motorcycles on the plantation at **Historic Poplar Grove. Wilmington.** Visit www.poplargrove.com or call 910-686-9518.

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** July 9. The classic **Andrew Lloyd Webber** musical presented on a grand scale at the Waterside Theatre. **Outer Banks.** Visit www.thelostcolony.org or call 252-473-3414.

**Carteret County Arts and Crafts Show:** July 8 & 9. Juried show and sale of arts and crafts.

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A Midsummer Night’s Dream: July 11-12. NCSA’s School of Drama is back with a unique version of William Shakespeare’s romantic comedy. Call 252-475-1500.

Watercolor Workshop: July 13. Spend a day painting the boats on Shallowbag Bay at the Maritime Museum on Roanoke Island with artist George Cheeseman. Visit www.obxmaritime.org or call 252-475-1750.


Barta Boys & Girls Club Billfish Tournament: July 20-22. Events at this annual tournament include captain’s and awards parties and an art auction that is open to the public. Beaufort. Visit www.bartaboysandgirlsclubbillfish.com or call 252-808-2286.

3rd Annual Dare County Boat Builders Challenge: July 21-23. Activities include 2-day fishing tournament, awards dinner and live band. Outer Banks. Visit www.fishpiratescove.com or call 800-422-3610.


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COASTAL REPORT CARD NOT GOOD

Things have been hopping at the coast. As temperatures rise, so does interest in our beaches, waterways and fishes. This month I’ll give you a rundown on several related coastal issues.

Perhaps of broadest import is the “Report Card for the Coast” put out by the North Carolina Beach Inlet and Waterway Association. (I’m a member of this organization but was not involved in the voting.) Overall the coast received a “C” for barely average. The report was broken into Beaches—C; Inlets—C; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway—D; Public Access to Beaches—A; and Public Access to Coastal Waters—D. I’m not quite sure how the AIWW got by with a D; D- maybe or F+ is more likely. We continue to lobby in Washington with the help of our delegation, but we continue to come up short. It reminds me of that line from an old country song, “Since the phone still ain’t ringing, I suppose it still ain’t you.” There is an ongoing economic impact study, which would prove the value of our waterways, but there isn’t the money to finish it. The Feds asked for the figures, so we’ll give them what we have, but I’m personally not very optimistic. If we can get them to accept some portion of the cost—50 percent, 40 percent, or something—it would make the job of planning for the future much easier.

The other “D” has to do with the decreasing amount of public access to coastal waters. If you live down here, you continue to see this unintended consequence of the coastal land boom. As the price of real estate escalates, the temptation to sell marinas, boat ramps and piers escalates as well. People who are running family-owned businesses that may have been started by their grandfathers can lose some of their sentimental attachment when someone waves $10 million or $20 million under their noses. And then what happens to the family-owned marina? It becomes condos with private boat slips. Commercial fishermen are even having trouble finding places to moor their boats as docks are turned into sales lots for boat merchants. Talk about a vanishing way of life. Unless something is done soon, Joe Six-Pack will have no place to launch his jon boat, and families coming to the coast may as well leave their boats in Raleigh. If they are lucky enough to find a ramp to launch their boat, there’ll be no place to park their boat trailer.

According to figures gathered on catch numbers, the fishing industry saw a reduction of 21 percent from 2004 and a drop of 24 percent if compared to the four-year average. With rising fuel costs, more and more fishermen are finding they just can’t make a living. Last month, however, fishing representatives appeared before the Marine Fisheries Commission with an approach seemingly rooted more in rage than in logic. Both fishermen and commissioners were quite unhappy with some of the restrictions recently posed by regional groups, such as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service. These groups set catch limits on fish that cross state boundaries and are, therefore, considered a regional or national resource. It is an involved and complex story, but some of those affected had a simple answer—withdraw from participation with these groups and stop furnishing them data. Emotionally satisfying, perhaps, but not likely to help the situation. This is an involved and complex issue about which we have to abide by the regulations adopted by these groups while losing their seat at the table. I am really sympathetic with the plight of the commercial fishermen, and after admitting that this is a complex issue about which I don’t know nearly enough, let me make a couple of suggestions:

A) Don’t withdraw from these regional organizations.
B) We have good representatives on these boards and commissions—work with them to try to better represent North Carolina’s unique issues.
C) More research is clearly needed if we are to understand what’s behind the declining numbers—over-fishing, pollution, degradation of nursery areas, etc. Much of this research is best if coordinated regionally; hence, we need more emphasis on cooperative endeavors, not less.

D) But assuming that not enough is going to be done to save our industry completely, let’s have some serious study done on alternative enterprises for fishermen and their families. This was the approach taken for farmers displaced by the decline in the tobacco industry—so why not for fishermen?

FISHING DECLINES

CLEAN WATER AND KEEPING BILL HOLMAN

Finally, there have been some disturbing things happening at the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). This is one of the best conservation concepts the General Assembly has created. Each year a significant amount of money is set aside to study and protect our vital water resources. With development and storm water run-off posing escalating threats to our waterways, the CWMTF has become increasingly important. Reacting to this, the General Assembly, in the 2005 session, significantly increased the funding. It sometimes can happen that increased funding is a mixed blessing. More funding means more grant requests, and sometimes those requests come in before the additional staff is on board to process them. More money also translates into more pressure, and sometimes more dissension on how those funds are to be allocated.

Suffice it to say that harmony has not been complete at the CWMTF. In an action that seems about as wise as North Carolina withdrawing from the regional fisheries organizations, the Board decided to put the Executive Director, Bill Holman, on three-months’ leave. Holman is one of the wisest, most experienced environmental experts we have in this state. Moreover, I have interacted with him on many occasions and can testify to his balance, his decency and his integrity. But even if all these things weren’t true, how in the world does it make sense to remove the executive director of a group suffering from growing pains? I can’t judge the overall case, but I do know this—the environmental health of this state will be the loser if we lose Holman’s counsel.
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Only 90 exclusive residences are available for discerning homeowners. Call or visit www.grandevillasatthepreserve.com to reserve yours today.
Billy Joe Shaver, country music institution from the Lone Star State, is coming to Nashville on July 13 to perform in the Nashville Showcase. The Nash Arts Council will hold a reception at 7 p.m., and the show will begin at 8 p.m. in the Nash Arts Center. (See Preview Pop Music for details.)

The Tony Award-Winning Red Clay Ramblers, the internationally acclaimed string band from Chapel Hill-Carrboro, will appear in concert, July 6 & 7 at the ArtsCenter, Carrboro. (left to right) Chris Frank (accordion), Jack Herrick (bass & trumpet), Bland Simpson (piano), Rick Good (banjo), Clay Buckner (fiddle). (See Preview Pop Music for details.)

NYC actress Wendy Peace, shown here, will play Lady Macbeth in the Carolinian Shakespeare Festival's production of Macbeth at the New Bern Civic Theatre, Aug. 3-20. Christopher Salazar, who was graduated in Dramatic Arts from UNC-Chapel Hill, will make his CSF debut as MacDuff. (See Preview Stage and Screen for details.)
ENJOY SUMMER AS JULY FLIES BY

GALLERIES

SOUTHERN STYLE—NEW ART AT MAGNOLIA GRILL: All originals, acrylic on canvas by Mandy Johnson; Magnolia Grill, Durham; Thru July 10. Call 919-286-3609.

SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB: Campbell House Galleries, Southern Pines; (Opening Reception July 7) Thru July 31. Contact 910-692-4356.

MIXED MEDIA: by Carole Stephens and Marcelle Hooks; Also "A Touch of Green," paintings by Sheri Greene; Fiber Art by Staci Strickland; Sertoma Arts Center, Raleigh; (Opening Reception Sunday, July 9) exhibitions on view month of July. Call 919-420-2329.

BLUE WATERS GOING FAST by Grace Li Wang is part of an exhibition "Radiance Series 1" opening July 1 at Grace Li Wang Gallery, Raleigh


VISIONS IN STEEL: Exhibition of stainless steel sculptures by Jill Dunston, welder/artist; Gallery A, Raleigh; (Opening reception Aug. 4) exhibition July 1-Aug. 31. Call 919-946-9011.

EASTERN CAROLINA REGIONAL JURIED FINE ARTS SHOW: Twin Rivers Artist Association, sponsoring 5th annual regional show of artists work from Eastern North Carolina; Bank of the Arts, New Bern; (Opening Reception July 14) July 5-29. Contact 252-634-2949 or 252-638-2577.

SUMMER SELECTIONS: A group exhibition featuring the paintings of Carl Krabill and Dennis Revitzky; Gallery A, Raleigh; July 7-Sept. 5. Contact 919-828-3165 or www.galleryc.net

ARKLES, SCHESSL, ROBERTS & DADDIEGO: Yearly regional artist show; Animation & Fine Art Gallery, University Mall, Chapel Hill; (Opening Reception July 14) Thru Aug. 10. Contact 919-968-8008 or www.animationandfineart.com


INSPIRED BY WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE: Three new exhibits each inspired by women's experience using metals, fiber and mixed media; Allenton & Semans Galleries, Durham Arts Council, Durham; Thru July 30. Contact www.durhamarts.org

NANCY TUTTLE MAY STUDIO PRESENTS COLOR & FORM: Featuring new works by Nancy Tuttle May; Nancy Tuttle May Studio, 806 Ninth Street, Durham; June 1-Aug. 15. Contact 919-286-2097 or www.nancytuttlemay.com

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: Featuring Elizabeth Kunreuther, Alison Overton, Margie Nae, Brian Shawcroft and Doug Van de Zande; The Collectors Gallery, Raleigh; Thru July 15. Contact 919-828-6500 or www.rggallery.com


EVENTS AT ARTSPACE: Raleigh; Call 919-821-2787 or www.artspace-raleigh.com

• TIM POSTELL—INTERNAL RHYTHMS: Visual Art/Painting; Upfront Gallery; (Opening Reception July 7) Thru July 29

• STAMMER!—Bi-monthly multi-art extravaganza; Gallery 2; July 14

• ANTHONY ULSNISH—TEAISM: Visual Art/Painting; Lobby; (Opening reception July 7) Thru July 29

Metro by Jason Cardenas is on view in a collection of his non-objective abstracts, open until July 15 at ArtSource, North Hills, Raleigh

METROMAGAZINE JULY 2006
5TH ANNUAL SUNRISE BLUES CRAWL FEATURING BILLY PRICE: Annual Event showcasing five venues that have the Blues; Sunrise Theatre, Southern Pines; July 8. Contact 910-692-3611.


BILLY JOE SHAVAR: Performing at The Nashville Showcase sponsored by the Nash Arts Council; Nash Arts Center, Downtown Nashville; July 13. Contact www.billyjoeshaiver.com or 252-459-4734.


MUSIC AT RENO’S STORE: Open Gospel Pickin’ (every first Saturday) and Open Bluegrass Pickin’ (every third Saturday), acoustic instruments only; Renco’s Store, Goldston-Pittsboro road between Pittsboro and Goldston; This Month July 1&15. Contact 919-542-8401.

BULIGHT DOWNTOWN LIVE CONCERT EVENTS: Raleigh; Moore Square Park; visit budlightdowntownlive.com.

RETURN TO GIVERNY, oil on canvas by Dianne Rodwell, depicting the road just north of Giverny, France, leading to Monet’s ancient village, is on view at Artspace, Raleigh.

THE GARDEN GALLERY — featuring works by some of North Carolina’s finest contemporary artists, past and present, including Joe Cox, Maud Gatewood, Horace Farlowe, Claude Howell, Elaine Reed, Gayle Lowry, Madonna Phillips, Janet Harriman, etc. 8404-Horace Farlowe, Raleigh.

REGULAR HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m. 919-787-2999; www.artscenterlive.org.


THE EVERYBODYFIELDS: July 7; Contact www.theeverybodyfields.com.

THE GIGI DOVER BAND: July 14; Contact www.gigidoover.com.

919-684-4444 or visit www.tickets.duke.edu (select ADF link on menu bar):
- **SHEN WEI DANCE ARTS:** Reynolds Industries Theater; July 3-5
- **DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS:** Page Aud.; July 6-8

**ADF COMMUNITY FAMILY DAY AT THE NASHER MUSEUM:** July 8

**KEIGWIN + COMPANY:** Reynolds Industries Theater; July 10-12

**RONALD K. BROWN / EVIDENCE:** Page Aud.; July 13-15

**BARRY STONEKING/2BTRIBE:** Baldwin Aud.; July 15

**INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHERS COMMISSIONING PROGRAM:** Reynolds Industries Theater; July 17-19

**SOLEDAD BARRIO & NOCHE FLAMENCA:** Page Auditorium; July 20-22

**CAROLINIAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL:** Presentation of William Shakespeare’s Macbeth in cooperation with The Rufus Corporation, opening July 6 at the Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham; Call 919-684-5135 or www.nasher.duke.edu

**EVENTS AT THE ACKLAND ART MUSEUM:** University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Contact 919-966-5736 or www.ackland.org

- **THE CAROLINA MOUNTAINS—PHOTOGRAPHY OF MARIE DOUGHERTY:** Exhibit of Oil paintings by Paul R. Hee of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Contact 919-966-5736 or www.ackland.org

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY:** Raleigh; Call 919-733-7450 or visit www.northcarolinahistory.org

- **A CALL TO ARMS:** Expanded version of the exhibit; Thru May 30, 2007

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF CULTURAL HISTORY:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

- **LONG MAY IT WAVE:** Discover the History & Symbolism behind several flags in the museum’s collection; July 5

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

- **IMAGINING CHURCH-PLACE PRACTICE & PEOPLE:** Thru Aug. 20

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES:** Raleigh; Contact 919-733-7450 or visit www.natural-sciences.org

- **THE RUFUS CORPORATION:** Reynolds Industries Theater; Thru July 16

**MUSEUMS**

- **JOURNEYS—WEAVING & PAINTING BY ROSE WARNER:** Presented by the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill; Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill; (Opening Reception July 2) Thru July 31. Contact 919-942-7818 or www.chapelhillpreservation.com

- **TASK FORCE KATRINA SPECIAL EXHIBIT:** The 82nd Airborne Mission in New Orleans in response to Hurricane Katrina; 82nd Airborne War Memorial Museum, Fayetteville; June-Dec. Contact 910-432-3443.

**CHANGING FACE OF FAYETTEVILLE STREET:**

This image of Raleigh’s Fayetteville Street was taken in 1972 and is now on view in “The Changing Face of Fayetteville Street” at the NC Museum of History, Raleigh. (The street was converted to a pedestrian mall in 1977 and this month it will reopen as “North Carolina’s Main Street” again)

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

- **THE RAPAL EXPEDITION:** July 10-12

- **VIETNAM—A LOOK BACK:** Raleigh; Call 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

**EVENTS AT THE ADF MUSEUMS**

**CONJURING BEARDEN & SOMETHING AU. OUR OWN:** Exhibitions of Romare Bearden works and The Grant Hill Designer bindings and Book objects by the Sobota Collection of African American Art; Thru July 16

**THE RAPE OF THE SABINE WOMEN, BY EVE SUSSMAN & THE RUFUS CORPORATION:** A video-musical inspired by the French neoclassical painter Jacques-Louis David’s masterpiece, The Intervention of the Sabine Women; July 6-Sept. 25

**MEMORIALS OF IDENTITY, NEW MEDIA FROM THE RUBELL COLLECTION:** Exhibit features Video Art and examines the impact of historical change on individual, cultural and national identity; Aug. 3-Sept. 25

**EVENTS AT THE ADF MUSEUMS:**

- **EVENTS AT THE NASHER MUSEUM OF ART:** Page Auditorium; July 9

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

- **BRIGHT STAR:** Raleigh; Thru July 15

**EVENTS AT THE RALEIGH CASTLE:** Raleigh; Thru Aug. 30

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

- **SHEN WEI DANCE ARTS:** Reynolds Industries Theater; Thru July 16

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF CULTURAL HISTORY:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

- **WEAPONS OF WORLD WAR II:** Experiment featuring armaments used by American, German and Japanese forces during WWII; Thru July 30, 2007

**EVENTS AT THE NC MUSEUM OF ART:** Raleigh; Contact 919-807-7900 or www.ncmuseumofart.org

- **SUMMER FAMILY PERFORMANCE SERIES:** Bright Star Children’s Theatre presents Jack’s Adventure in American History; July 9

**EVENTS AT THE ADF MUSEUMS:**

- **DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS:** Page Aud.; July 6-8

**EVENTS AT THE ADF MUSEUMS:**

- **IMAGINING CHURCH-PLACE PRACTICE & PEOPLE:** Thru Aug. 20
GARDEN & ART

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUNDAYS:ENSEMBLE FROM CHAMBER MUSIC AT ST. PETERS: July 16
COMMON GROUND-DISCOVERING COMMUNITY IN 150 YEARS OF ART: Thru July 16

EVENTS AT THE GREENVILLE MUSEUM OF ART: Greenville; Contact 252-758-1946
WORKS BY PITTS COUNTY ART STUDENTS: June 8-July 8
NC WATERCOLOR SOCIETY EXHIBIT: Includes paintings by eastern region members of NCWS; July 13-23
SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON SUNDAYS—ENSEMBLE FROM CHAMBER MUSIC AT ST. PETERS: July 16
COMMON GROUND-DISCOVERING COMMUNITY IN 150 YEARS OF ART: Thru July 16

EVENTS AT EXPLORIS: Raleigh; Contact 919-857-1085 or www.exploris.org
JUAN MATA'S GLOBAL BREAKDANCE CREW: July 8
T'MONDE: CAJUN MUSIC AND DANCE BAND: July 15
KOREAN PAPER PAINTING: July 22
BOMBA Y PLENA: Dance from Puerto Rico; July 29

PETPOURRI

HOLLY HILL DAYLILY AND CRINUM FARM IN BLOOM: Flower fields now open; Holly Hill Daylily and Crinum Farm, Moncure; Weekends only thru July. Call 919-542-4919 or visit www.hollyhilldaylilies.com
ELIZABETH—RULER AND LEGEND: A national traveling exhibition that focuses on the brilliant monarch; Cameron Village Library, Raleigh; Thru Aug. 11. Contact 919-856-6703 or www.newberry.org/elizabeth
PITTSBORO FARMER'S MARKET: Baked goods, eggs, flowers, honey, jams/jellies, soaps, plants, poultry and other meats; Chatham County Fairgrounds, Pittsboro; Every Thursday April-Nov. Call 919-542-8202.
GO FIGURE—PLAYFUL MATH ACTIVITIES & STORYBOOK CHARACTERS: Kidzu Children's Museum; Chapel Hill; Thru Sept. 10. Contact 919-933-1455 or www.kidzuchildrensmuseum.org
AUTHOR VISIT—HOWARD OWEN: Fayetteville native, Howard Owen, introduces his recently released novel, Rock of Ages; Cumberland County Headquarters Library, Fayetteville; Thru July 18. Contact 919-483-7727.
CAT VACUUMERS GUILD AND WRITERS GROUP: Cliffsedge Regional Branch Library, Cumberland County; July 5 & 19. Contact 919-864-3800

SPECIAL JULY 4TH CELEBRATIONS
JULY 3RD FIREWORKS & MUSIC AT THE ROANOAKE CASHIE RIVER CENTER: Fireworks, music, refreshments and Art Council booths featuring July 4th Memoriai; Roanoke Cashie River Center, Windsor; July 3. Call 252-794-4277 or www.windsor-bertie.com
STATE CAPITOL AND MUSEUM OF HISTORY JULY FOURTH FESTIVITIES: 11am-3pm; Capitol Grounds & Museum of History, Raleigh; July 4. Contact 919-807-7900 or ncmuseumofhistory.org
OPERATION CELEBRATE FREEDOM: Celebrate July 4 with R. Bragg; Main Post Parade Field, R. Bragg, Fayetteville; July 3 & 4. Contact 919-369-1024 or www.fortbraggmwr.com
JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT SERTOMA AMPHITHEATRE: Independence Eve Concert with the Cary Town Band, & performance by the Cary Youth Theatre; Sertoma Amphitheatre, Cary; July 3. Contact 919-469-4601
INDEPENDENCE DAY OLD-STYLE CELEBRATION: Begins with a parent-child fishing tournament, followed by a host of games and contests; Bond Park Waterfront, Cary; July 4. Contact 919-469-4601
JULY 4TH CELEBRATION AT KOKA BOOTH AMPHITHEATRE: American salute with music performed by the NC Symphony; Koka Booth Amphitheatre, Cary; July 4. Contact 919-469-4601
NEW BERN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION: Tryon Palace grounds; Gardens open to public, Colonial-type activities; Fife & Drum Parade; Reading of the Declaration of Independence with costumed interpreters; Fife & Drum Corps concert on the South Lawn of Palace, Puppet Show

METROMAGAZINE JULY 2006

591-839-NCMA or www.ncartmuseum.org
LATIN DANCE PARTY: An evening with Ozomatli; Joseph M. Bryan Theater; July 12
DELBERT MCCLINTON: Joseph M. Bryan Theater; July 22
SIGHTS & SOUNDS ON SUNDAYS—ENSEMBLE FROM CHAMBER MUSIC AT ST. PETERS: July 16
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THE ICEMAN COMETH TO SAVE THE SOUTH

I do love to ramble, especially with my friends in the Southern Foodways Alliance. I mention SFA often because I believe so strongly in its mission: to document and celebrate the diverse food cultures of the American South.

One hundred or so of us recently trekked to the bayside village of Apalachicola in the Florida Panhandle. We set up shop in the historic Gibson Inn and spent four days exploring the area’s oystering traditions—and its oysters. This motley band included food writers, historians, noted chefs, cookbook authors, academicians and “foodies” from many walks of life: my friend Denny Samuel, who births babies in Bristol, Tenn.; Winnie Williams, a petite African-American of about my age with short, tight, blonde curls (“Some silly woman just asked me if this was ‘natural’”) from Cambridge, Mass.; and feisty Elsie Johns who for decades has provided ladies of Hollywood, Fla., with fine intimate apparel. (“Where was I born? Nebraska. Remember? I told you that five years ago.”)

Why Apalachicola? This village of a couple of thousand people and surrounding Franklin County harvest more than 90 percent of Florida’s oysters and 10 percent of the oysters consumed in the nation. Prodigious Apalachicola Bay—the Apalachicola River empties into it—is protected from the Gulf by a thin string of barrier islands, like our Outer Banks. It yields oysters from both natural and cultivated beds, as well as shrimp, crabs, and fish, and supports a unique culture of tightly knit, interdependent families, friends and neighbors.

The architecture of Apalachicola reminds me very much of the small, eastern North Carolina towns that mostly have given up the ghost. Late 19th-century brick storefronts with plate-glass windows and set-back entrances line the concrete sidewalks and wide streets of “downtown” Apalachicola.

Late one afternoon a delightful, new friend, Cliff Barton of New York, and I were meandering over to our evening function. We took the shortest route, angling across one street and eventually strolling leisurely down the middle of another as we chatted. At sunset, the town was quiet as a mouse. “Cliff,” I said, “we are walking down the middle of the street like we own this place, and people are waving like we are homefolks. This is small-town South that is almost gone.”

The next morning I was sitting on the porch of the Inn drinking coffee and savoring the view. A kitchen employee came out for a cigarette break. “You know, I haven’t seen a parking meter anywhere. Are there any parking meters in Apalachicola?” I asked.

“No, sir,” she replied, “but I expect they are a-coming. Things is changing a lot. We already got a one-way street—right there,” she said, as she pointed to a “One-Way” sign just across the way. “And they switched the caution light to a stoplight, so we got one stoplight now, too.”

Besides its seafood industry and restaurants that serve up oysters, fish, soft-shell crabs, shrimp and scallops prepared to perfection, Apalachicola has another claim to fame. Get ready for this one. It is the home of the distinguished southern gentleman Dr. John Gorrie, who invented the ice machine and is considered the father of modern air conditioning and refrigeration.

Well, by golly, somebody had to do it, and this debonair physician, who was fascinated by ice, was determined to find a way to manufacture ice. While treating malaria and the yellow fever that plagued the lowland population, he kept tinkering until he patented his ice machine in 1851. The original is in the Smithsonian, but a reproduction is the centerpiece of a museum in Apalachicola dedicated to his accomplishment. The good doctor himself lies just across the street. On a third corner of this intersection is an impressive monument to his memory with his claim to fame chiseled in granite.

I learned while working in Washington, DC, that each state had the privilege of placing the statue of one famous citizen in the US Capitol’s Statuary Hall. Most states chose politicians. North Carolina is represented by former governor and US Senator Zebulon B. Vance. Virginia by Robert E. Lee. And Nebraska by William Jennings Bryan. Apparently Floridians take air conditioning more seriously than politicians. Or maybe they just place a higher value on cold air than on hot air. Regardless, Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola has his place of honor. In Florida’s defense, it is not the only state represented by an inventor. Pennsylvania has an artful bronze of Robert Fulton, who created the steamboat.

Gorrie became convinced that somehow temperature was important to treating the fever. He observed that in the fall “Nature would terminate the fevers by changing the seasons.” He tried to cool his patients’ rooms by suspending ice in a basin from the ceiling and causing cool air to flow down across the patient and through an opening near the floor. Since Florida ice was expensive—it had to be brought by ship from the northern lakes—Gorrie began to experiment with making his own. Finally, he succeeded and announced his accomplishment dramatically—by serving champagne chilled on ice to the delight of guests at the French consulate in Apalachicola on Bastille Day—July 14, the dead of summer.

Gorrie’s story whetted my interest in ice as a commercial product—especially as we enter the peak of the summer season. Surprisingly, the American ice trade is well documented, and as early as the 1700s Northern entrepreneurs were making fortunes cutting ice in frozen lakes, packing it in sawdust to prevent it from melting, and shipping it to Southern destinations. Ice used in Apalachicola would have been cut and shipped from a northern state—possibly New York—down the east coast,
around Florida and then up to the Panhandle.

Poor packing was a major hazard because melting could cause the cargo to shift and sink a ship. With the advent of railroads, ice was shipped overland, and the ocean trade gradually disappeared.

As you drink a glass of cold iced tea at your Fourth of July picnic, think about what a rare and delicious treat it would have been in 1861 when Gorrie patented his device.

We had an icebox that sat beside the back door in rural Bertie County in the 1940s with a collection of Depression glass on top. The rural electric co-ops hadn’t yet strung their wires, and there was no refrigerator. I am sure we got ice at the house when it was dropped off to cool at Daddy’s store, but, frankly, I have no recollection of it. I do remember the iceman delivering to the soda shop where I worked in Buies Creek as a teenager. “Shaving” the bulk ice for fountain drinks was my task. On one occasion when I should have been minding my business, I lost the tip—just a tiny piece, mind you—of a finger to the whirling steel blade.

That ice came from a plant in Lillington that was located a few blocks south of the courthouse. Like so many icehouses, it was also a purveyor of coal and, for good measure, stocked cold watermelons. Between you and me, I think they opened on Sunday afternoons because people would want ice to make homemade ice cream or cool a watermelon to treat company.

I spent some time on the porch of the Inn with Cappy Ricks of Atlanta, who has a few years on me and as a boy worked in an icehouse in Mississippi. He refreshed my memory. Ice was formed in 300-pound blocks in metal molds sitting in a pool of cold brine.

Block and tackle was required to lift one of the 300-pound blocks and swing it over to the side. The container was sprayed to release the ice so it could slide down a ramp to the storage room. There it was scored by circular blades, marking off 100, 50, 25, and 12-and-a-half-pound sections.

“My boss was so worried about waste that he made us cut all the ice down to 25-pound blocks with a long-tooth saw. When we split a 25-pound block, he finally trusted us to use an ice-pick,” Ricks said.

Gorrie surely must have gone to heaven for bringing ice and air conditioning to the steamy South. I do hope St. Peter issued him a fancy new refrigerator with an ice dispenser in the door.

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**Can You Find Your Calling On Public Television?**

Ask David Crabtree

Thousands of North Carolinians recognize David Crabtree from his work as an award-winning news anchor on WRAL-TV in Raleigh. But a much smaller number of people know him for something very different. David Crabtree is also a vocational deacon in the Episcopal Church with a focus on ministering to those on death row and in hospice care.

Some years ago, David saw a public television special hosted by Bill Moyers on the inspiring history of the familiar hymn *Amazing Grace*. He was so moved by the story that he enrolled in the Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, which ultimately led him to the church work he does today.

Find your own little bit of heaven on UNC-TV.

*Television That Changes Lives.*

Photo courtesy of Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh

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Photo courtesy of Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh

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**UNC TV**

[www.uncvtv.org](http://www.uncvtv.org)
My hero Oscar Wilde said, "The first responsibility of man is to strike a pose, the second responsibility is to maintain it." I recently decided to follow that creed and maintain my pose of bon vivant by skipping the puddle to soak up culture and see what was up in rural England and the Isle of Guernsey. Thank goodness I had sobered up slightly by the time the plane landed at Gatwick. I immediately found myself driving a stick shift Vauxhall on the left-hand side of the road in unknown territory. I was under the assumption that England, a fairly small nation, would be industrialized to the max, with just a few pockets of green here and there bustling with tourists. That assumption could not be further from the truth. I soon found myself touring for hours through emerald fields, miles of hedgerows and past acres of yellow mustard in bloom. I decided this would be the perfect trip to visit all of the small out-of-the-way villages that you see on PBS that have no stoplights and no KFC or McDonalds. I couldn’t have been more pleased with the results.

The first day I found myself in what is often referred to as the most beautiful village in the Cotswolds of England, Chipping Campden. I was blown away by the beauty of the architecture, the peacefulness of the rural setting and the friendliness of the townsfolk. Of course, I had my antennae out for art, so it was a joy when strolling down High Street I met the charming Guy Cohen, owner of Campden Gallery (www.campdengallery.co.uk), the finest gallery in the area. Located in a gorgeous...
300-year-old limestone building, the gallery features talented painters, as well as sculptors. I immediately was drawn to the dramatic, lyrical sculptures by Emily Mayer, who turns out to be the talented taxidermist behind some of Damien Hirst’s more outrageous artworks. In Mayer’s capable hands a shard of metal becomes a beak, a twist of wood a spine. The results are so fluid and graceful that you expect the creatures to rise like Lazarus and walk... truly amazing. Even more amazing was that only a few days after my visit, who should come walking into the very same gallery with her beautiful daughter? Raleigh’s own world traveler and a fine artist in her own right, Catherine Williams. What are the odds of that? The people in London who rented me the car had never even heard of Chipping Campden and now you have three folks from NC show up. The world gets smaller every day.

The next town on my list of must-sees was the bustling village of Ludlow, located in the rolling hills of Shropshire. Remember A Shropshire Lad by A.E. Houseman? Well, this is the place and I dutifully made my pilgrimage to St. Lawrence’s church where the poet’s ashes are buried against the North Wall. The view from the garden is spectacular and seems to go on forever, across the River Teme to the distant hillsides covered with grazing sheep. Of course, after seeing such beauty of nature I had to rest my eyes by looking at art, so I popped into the red door at the Arterie Gallery (www.arterie.co.uk). There I was surprised to find the work of Edward Bell, who is still living his 15 minutes of fame as the artist responsible for several of David Bowie’s albums during the ’70s. I can tell that Bell is still a wild man, and from what the gallery owner said, a conscious effort is being made to catapult Bell back into the public eye after a long absence.

RUNNING AWAY TO GUERNSEY

Finally, after several days I reached the coast and jumped on the first ferry to the Channel Island of Guernsey. Without a doubt, this is the most beautiful island I have ever been to in my life. All I wanted to do was wander over the cliffs glowing with wild hyacinths, yellow heather and a plethora of other fragrant flowers. With only 60,000 residents, the island is easy to get around, but if you are skittish about driving down a foggy one-lane road where you don’t know whether you will meet a horse or a tractor around the bend, best let someone else do the driving.

If I ever run away from home, this might be the spot I choose. I’m not the only one who saw Guernsey and thought of escape. Victor Hugo placed himself under voluntary exile on the island for 15 years from 1855-1870. If you ever go, there is one stop you absolutely must make… Hauteville House, owned by the City of Paris and maintained exactly as the writer left it. Hugo stated that he would rather be a decorator than a writer, and he put that desire to work on this quirky and elegant residence. He scoured the island for ancient tapestries, Chinese ceramics, old carved chests and proceeded to slice, dice and rearrange the objects into totally fresh and brazen décor for the period. From the ancient stained glass panels inserted over doors, to his initials carved in the lush garden, Hugo proved he was an artist who lived his life on his own terms— and with a singular and unique vision. ... We all should aspire to the same.
LONGCHAMP OPENS IN NYC

The crush at the recent opening party of the new Longchamp store in SoHo came as a shock. With a reputation for well-designed but conservative luggage and handbags, velvet ropes hardly seemed justified. But Longchamp used the launch of their New York store to make a statement: This brand is throwing its hat into the ring of high fashion, much as Gucci did a few decades ago, and courting celebs, models and the editors who love them. Named after the famous racecourse outside of Paris, Longchamp started in post-war France as purveyor of smoking accessories, becoming particularly well known for their leather-covered pipes. Longchamp has come a long way since then.

The interior of the new space was designed by Heatherwick Studio, a young British design firm that made its name with projects including the 2004 "Rolling Bridge" in London, which uncurls like a caterpillar, transforming from a compact wheel into an elegant 36-foot-long footbridge. At Longchamp's SoHo boutique, Heatherwick used ribbons of hot-rolled steel and glass to connect the three levels of space, creating an undulating topography that incorporates stairways and recalls—what
else—a racetrack. In the second-floor showroom, the handbags are displayed to full advantage on individual shelves, almost as museum pieces. Some standouts include Longchamp's new Idole bag, an appealing mix of slouch and structure, and the SoHo Duplex bag, which converts a back-pack shape into a chic double-handled tote. Not that it was possible to study the goods on opening night—the crowd was too busy studying each other.

**TENNIS ANYONE?**

The ultimate spectator sport of summer may be tennis. But if you're playing in North Carolina in July, you're either an early riser or don't mind hanging out with the bugs under the big lights. During the day, it's just too steamy to hit the courts. Whenever you decide to get your game on, check out Wilson's fashionable line of rackets engineered for women. The W line uses Wilson's patented nCode technology, which takes a lightweight carbon fiber racket and injects it with silicone dioxide. This super-racket comes in a vari-

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**FASHION NEWS**

**Cameron Clothing** has announced plans to expand into additional space adjacent to its North Hills locations, doubling the size of its "midtown" store. Construction is well under-way for an early August opening. The ladies specialty store plans to close its Cameron Village store; Raleigh, 919.829.1511.

**Fine Feathers** invites customers to come check out their Italian sportswear collection by Piazza Sempione, new for fall; Chapel Hill; 919.942.3151.

**Vermillion** will be having a sale during the month of July for spring and summer clothing and accessories; Raleigh, 919.787.9780.

This month, **Elaine Miller Collection** is featuring their newest selection of estate pieces. Don't forget the Summer Sale with savings from 25% - 50% on all fashion jewelry; Raleigh, 919.571.8888.

It may be hot outside, but at **Saks Fifth Avenue**, pre-fall collections from top international designers have arrived. With new selections in store, now is an ideal time to experience the Saks difference and update your wardrobe in the new direction fashion is taking for fall. Saks will also be featuring an exclusive and extravagant Lancôme gift with $35 purchase from July 19-August 5; Raleigh, 919.792.9100.

**Galatea boutique** is now located at The Shops of Seaboard Station and will host a Trunk Show with Argentinian designer Ema Calderon July 7 and 8. Call for details; Raleigh, 919.833.8565.

**Beleza**, Raleigh's newest fair trade store, invites customers to check out their new collection of handcrafted jewelry, apparel and accessories from Brazil and Madagascar. Located in Cameron Village, Raleigh, 919.832.4775.

**Comfortable Soles** welcomes customers to come and see their lines of amazing comfort footwear like Birkenstock, Dansko, Naot, UGG, Rainbow and Crocs. They also carry accessories such as Healthy Back Bag and Hobo purses. Cameron Village, Raleigh 919.826.9967.
ety of feisty patterns with names sure to make your opponent a little nervous: Savage Lime, Red Fury, Cobalt Storm, to name a few. The W line is available in three sizes to complement a player's skill level: W2 ($270) has a large, wide head for beginners, W4 ($230) is slightly smaller, giving a good combination of power and control, while the W6 ($200) is for those who dream of Serena and Venus, featuring a small 97-inch head that offers maximum control.

Wilson has also launched the Hope line of equipment and

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products for women, with a portion of the sale proceeds going to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (with a minimum $150,000 a year donation). The signature pink ribbon is embroidered on pink, gray and white wristbands and headbands, a chic little pink backpack and even pink tennis balls. The Hope titanium alloy racket is available for only $35 and can be found along with the rest of the line at Target and Wal-Mart and selected sporting goods stores.

Looking for tennis whites? American Apparel makes a jersey "leisure dress," perfect for the courts. This cotton mini—dress—with short sleeves and a polo collar—goes right into the wash and is only $34. www.americanapparel.com.

American Apparel leisure dress

American Apparel
leisure dress

American Apparel
leisure dress

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Mysterious and austere by day, Nelsons facade seems a bit incongruous set among the bustling retail stores in Cameron Village. "Is it open to the public or is it a private club?" I wondered when I strolled by at lunchtime. Neither a menu nor a sign indicating hours of operation was visible, but suddenly the door opened. "We're not open for lunch, but please come back tonight," a pleasant gentleman suggested.

By cocktail hour the place was jumping, the hottest spot in the shopping center. We entered a scene that suggested a three-ring circus, a different act going on simultaneously in every direction. Like an upscale country club, Nelsons offers a separate area for every appetite and age range. Wine bar, roof bar, oyster bar, formal dining room—take your pick, no sign-in required.

The saying, "everything old is new again," applies to Nelsons in spades, though its mesmerizing waterfall windows and contemporary décor imply otherwise. The dining room menu takes us to a time before fusion cuisine, before regional, before nouvelle, all the way back to Escoffier's richest classics. If you have been dreaming of tournedos Rossini or lobster Thermador for decades (or heard your grandparents rhapsodize about them), you can rediscover these decadent pleasures at Nelsons.

It's obvious that Executive Chef Robert Brantly has no fear of cream or butter (don't miss his exquisitely rich she-crab soup), but his true love is fresh seafood. From over 20 years experience cooking at fine dining restaurants along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, he knows the best thing to do with a bivalve is—absolutely nothing. Nelsons raw bar boasts several varieties of oysters from all over the country, as well as fresh Littleneck and Cherrystone clams. The most satisfying of all the well-prepared dishes I tasted during the evening was the simplest: six distinctly different oysters sauced only with a squeeze of lemon and served with the perfect
METRO GOURMET

Hungry Apex residents of all ages are flocking to Good Day Cafe & Moontimes Winebar that opened recently in the historic downtown district. The two-level restaurant caters to the whole family with a kid-friendly lunch and breakfast menu downstairs. By arsenic hour, hire a baby sitter and join the crowd upstairs for adult nibbles and libations. Owner Kurt Mueller is so happy with the response to this concept, he intends to duplicate Good Day/Moontimes in Clayton this summer.

The buzz in Carrboro is all about Milltown, the new restaurant at 307 E. Main Street. Its name belies its menu and décor—this is more gastro-pub than meat-and-three. Owned by the same folks who brought the Federal to downtown Durham, Milltown hits just the right spot in a place that well may be the most sophisticated mill town in America. An urbane international menu complements its impressive beer and wine list.

After a successful three-year run in Cary’s McGregor Village, Cosmopolitan closed for dry muscadet (the wine steward clearly favors crisp, seafood friendly wines).

Brantly’s two-year stint at the Raleigh Country Club taught him a lot about the cravings of North Carolinians, and many of his dishes showcase familiar Southern, Italian and Asian flavors. There is a nod to Calabash with a nicely fried shrimp and oyster plate, but desserts are purely continental—the Grand Marnier Chocolate Mousse a standout.

After dinner we climbed the stairs to the Skyline Loft, where there appeared to be a private party in full swing. Twenty-somethings crowded the handsome bar under the stars sipping classic cocktails, wine and beer between bites of Kobe sliders and pomme frites. Music and laughter filled the air. As it turns out, this is the scene every night of the week.

Like most popular city clubs, special events appear to be going on at Nelson’s incessantly, even on Sundays when an extravagant champagne brunch buffet offers an excuse to celebrate the end of the week. Unlike a club, however, joining is as simple as walking through the door. A reservation is an invitation. We’re all members, it’s our party, and we can go when we want to.

NIBBLES

WHAT DINING OUT IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

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Winston's GRILLE

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a few days in May and then re-opened as **Bistro 64**. Cosmo's many fans needn't worry. The only major change is the ownership. Emily and Will Massey bought the restaurant from creator John Toler (chef/owner of Bloomsbury Bistro), staff intact. Chef Randy Wilder and manager Katherine Natale are still at the helm, maintaining the high standards of the original restaurant.

Searching for a thick bowl of gumbo and a great po-boy? Head to **A Taste of New Orleans** in Durham. Owner/chef Linda Gaspard came to this area from the Crescent City, catered for her friends and professors, and this year has opened her own modest cafe on South Alston. Faux Cajun/Creole restaurants come and go in these parts. This is the real thing, and I hope it has a long run in the **Metro** area.

We are blessed with five AAA Four Diamond award-winning restaurants in the Triangle. Last year, their award-winning chefs got together for a Four Diamond Dinner Series that was such a hit they are repeating it this year. Dinners include five courses with each chef preparing one course—each matched with an appropriate wine. The remaining schedule is: Sept. 21, **Il Palio Ristorante** at the Siena Hotel in Chapel Hill (919-918-2545); Oct. 5, **Carolina Cross-Roads Restaurant** at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill (919-918-2777); Nov. 2, **Second Empire Restaurant** in Raleigh (919-829-3663). Call the individual restaurant to make reservations.

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Ever Tuesday throughout the summer, **BIN 54** in Chapel Hill is offering "Sip, Swirl and Swallow" Tuesday Tastings. Join Beverage Directors Brett Davis and Douglas Snyder on the patio; $20 includes six "tastes du jour" and small bites.

In an effort to bring awareness to the hundreds of small, family-owned farms in and around the Triangle area, Chef Andrea Reusing launched a dinner series at the **Lantern Restaurant** in Chapel Hill, as I described in the April issue of **Metro**. On July 18, she will host a Japanese-inspired summertime dinner featuring unusual Asian ingredients, all sourced from the 225-year-old Shady Grove Farm. This five-course dinner will include fresh soybeans, Asian heirloom tomatoes, heirloom Delaware Chicken, Berkshire Pork and more. For reservations, call 919-969-8846.

For cooks who prefer to stay home and take advantage of all the fabulous berries, corn, tomatoes, melons and other produce available this month in our farmers' markets, check out award-winning cookbook writer **Deborah Madison's new Local Flavors: Cooking and Eating from America's Farmers' Markets**. Not only are her recipes superb; her Web site directs you to farmers' markets all over North Carolina, and includes hours of operation and other pertinent information.

**Metro** readers interested in a career in professional baking can enroll in Wake Technical Community College's new **Baking and Pastry Certificate** program, available this fall. For more information about this or other courses in Tech's award winning culinary arts program, contact Penny Prichard, department head for Culinary Technology and Hotel and Restaurant Management at 662-3417, or plprichard@waketech.edu.

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**Metro Gourmet** adds its congratulations to **Angus Barn's Executive Chef Walter Royal** who is cited as one of the top black chefs in America by **Black Enterprise** magazine and to **Crook's Corner's Bill Smith** whose book, **Seasoned in the South** was recently cited by **Food & Wine** magazine as one of its top 25 recommended cookbooks of the year.
42nd Street Oyster Bar – 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh. (919) 831-2811. A Raleigh tradition since 1931. Serving quality seafood, steaks and pasta in a casual atmosphere. Steamers oysters and clams available. Serving lunch Mon. through Fri. and dinner seven nights a week.


Bistro 607 – 607 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 826-0840. This cozy house turned restaurant located at the top of Glenwood South offers a wide variety of immaculate dishes from this region and afar. Market fresh fish daily. Open for lunch Mon. through Fri. 11:30-2:00 pm. Dinner Mon. through Sat. 5:30-10:00 pm, Closed Sunday. www.bistro607.com.


115 Midtowne – 4421 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh. (919) 787-8963. 115 Midtowne offers a contemporary metropolitan cuisine with multi-cultural influences. The 109 bottle wine list offers opportunity for great pairing of fantastic affordable great fInd wines (high dollar and economy too) with incredibly fantastic dishes. Steamed oysters and clams in a newly renovated, very hip but casual atmosphere.

Jibarra Restaurant – 7420 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. (919) 844-6330. The first upscale Mexican restaurante in the area featuring eclectic, flavorful dishes representative of each region of Mexico. To complement our dishes, we feature a rooftop Tequila Lounge offering premium cocktails made with fresh-squeezed citrus, and distinguish ourselves with a unique wine list featuring exquisite wines from Spain and Latin America. Now offering Sun. brunch and new lunch menu, www.jibarra.net.

Hi5 – 510 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 834-4335. For food and fans, Hi5 is the place to watch. Over 30 TVs, including 10 plasma screens and a huge projection screen. Full menu with 20 varieties of wings, pizza, burgers, nachos and more. DJ on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays. www.hi5raleigh.com.

Lucky 32 – 832 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh. (919) 876-9932. 7307 Tryon Road, Cary, (919) 233-1632. Seasonal fare with influences of regions across the country. www.lucky32.com.

Maximillians – 8314 Chapel Hill Road, Cary (919) 465-2455. Maximillians, owned and operated by Michael and Gayle Schiffer, features American Fusion cuisine, intimate dining and an extensive wine bar. Voted "Best Fine Dining" in the Cary News Readers' Poll. News & Observer praised food as "inventive fusion cuisine" with 3 1/2 stars.

The Melting Pot – 3100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. (919) 878-0477. At The Melting Pot, fondué becomes a memorable four-course dining experience where patrons can really "Dip into something different!" Guests enjoy a choice of four flavorful fondues and a variety of unique entrees combined with special dipping sauces. The menu also includes creamy cheese fondues, fresh salads, fine wines and mouthwatering chocolate fondué desserts. www.meltingpot.com.


Nana’s Chophouse – 328 West Davie Street, Raleigh. (919) 829-1212. Nana’s Chophouse is a high energy, contemporary Italian style chophouse infused with Southern American flavors and local ingredients. Nana’s features complimentary valet parking, live music, and fresh seafood. Seating in the bar and outdoor patio are first-come-first-serve. Hours of operation are Mon-Thurs. 5:30-10:00 pm. Fri. and Sat. 5:30-11:00 pm; late night menu until midnight.

Nelsons – Cameron Village, 521 Daniels Street, Raleigh. (919) 832-9815. Opened late April; bringing the best of classic American-European haute cuisine to life in a stylish multi-faceted setting featuring an inviting dining loggia, gowne steak bar, reserve wine bar, private dining room, and outdoor loft-thrilling neighborhood and destination diners alike. Open for dinner Tues. through Sat. 5:00pm until 1:00am and Sun. brunch 11:00am until 3:00pm.

Nina’s Ristorante – 2601 Leachline Road, Raleigh. (919) 845-1122. Vibrant flowers, paintings and tasting service. Art sculptures are arranged throughout the terra cotta walls of the restaurant. The restaurant provides the ever-growing area with Tuscan cuisine that is heavy on flavor and light on the ingredients. Hours of operation are Mon.-Sat. from 5:00-10:00 pm.


Porter’s City Tavern – 2412 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh. (919) 621-2133. Porter’s City Tavern was chosen “Best New Restaurant” of 2004 by the readers of Metro Magazine. A fresh open floor and sidewalk/patio showcases a diverse menu of steaks, pastas, salads, sandwiches, and fresh fish. The menu is prepared using the freshest local ingredients available.


Stonehoud Grill & Tavern – 6675 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh (919) 847-5304. 1080 Darrington Drive, Cary (919) 481-0174. Stonehoud is a warm, comfortable, inviting place where guests are provided an excellent dining experience through fresh, superior quality dishes prepared with passion, complemented by an extraordinary wine list and served with attention to every detail.

Sullivan’s Steakhouse – 414 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, (919) 839-2885. The atmosphere at Sullivan’s resembles a 1940s steakhouse featuring fine steaks and seafood. Enjoy the unparalleled martini list and live jazz played in the wood-paneled lounge seven nights a week.

Taverna Agora – 6101 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 881-6333. An Absolutely Greek restaurant and wine bar. A Tapestry of Flavors, all fresh flavors of the Old Country directly to you. Our authentic menu of slow roasted meats and flavorful seafood complements the festive mood of this rustic experience. Open nightly for dinner and catering available. Love life through the eyes of Greeks.

Tavola Rossa Ristorante Italiana – 5300 Homewood Banks Drive, Raleigh. (919) 532-7100. Our menu features pasta, brick-oven pizza, chicken, veal and seafood. The open kitchen lets you in on the action while our patio allows you to dine alfresco. Fabulous atmosphere serving the finest steaks, seafood and pasta, brick-oven pizza, chicken, veal and seafood. The open kitchen lets you in on the action while our patio allows you to dine alfresco. Enjoy our casual upbeat atmosphere.

Vin Rouge – 2010 Hillsborough Road, Durham, (919) 416-0406. Vin Rouge, a French cafe and wine bar, treats guests to provincial cooking at its finest in a chic, intimate setting. Serving dinner Tuesday – Sunday 5:30 – 11:00 pm and Sunday brunch 10:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Verde de Oro – 2200 West Main Street, Durham, (919) 286-9755. New American cuisine in a sleek and modern atmosphere.

Zesty Cafe & Home Art – 8831 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. (919) 849-4792. Located in North Raleigh, Zesty has been offering the freshest, finest food served with a zestful outlook since 1995. Dine in our cafe or outdoor patio for Lunch, Tues.-Sat. 11:00am-2:45pm, Dinner, Wed.-Sat. 5:30pm-9:00pm, and Brunch, Sun. 10:00am-2:00pm. Also, enjoy our Home Art selection of fun and whimsical home accessories, furnishings and gifts.

DUHARK/PEX


Café Parizade – 2200 West Main Street, Durham. (919) 286-9712. High ceiling with Renaissance-inspired murals, brilliantly colorful surrealist works of art and casually chic crowds feeding on Mediterranean dishes. Serving lunch Monday-Friday 11:30 am – 2:30 pm and dinner Monday – Thursday 5:30 – 10:00 pm and Friday-Saturday 5:30 – 11:00, and Sunday 5:30 – 9:00 pm.

Daniel’s Restaurant – 1430 NC 55, Apex, (919) 303-1006. Comfortable, casual atmosphere featuring freshly sautéed pasta dishes, eclectic chef’s specials, and homemade desserts. Serving lunch 11:30am-2:00pm, afternoon tea 2:00-4:00, dinner 5:00-9:00 bottle wine list. Outside dining and catering available. Reservations accepted. Serving lunch Sun.-Fri.; 11am-4pm and dinner; Sun.-Mon., 5pm until 9pm and Tues.-Sat, 5pm until 10pm. www.daniel-restaurant.com.

George’s Garage – 737 Ninth Street, Durham. (919) 286-4131. Enjoy our casual upbeat atmosphere with the freshest seafood and authentic south bay. After hour celebration and dancing and a fresh to-go market and bakery.

Van Rouge – 2010 Hillsborough Road, Durham, (919) 416-0406. Vin Rouge, a French cafe and wine bar, treats guests to provincial cooking at its finest in a chic, intimate setting. Serving dinner Tuesday – Sunday 5:30 – 11:00 pm and Sunday brunch 10:30 am – 2:00 pm.

The Weathervane – 201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill, (919) 929-9466. Seasonal menu reflects the good taste that made A Southern Season famous. Memorable patio setting and sophisticated dining room. Award winning bar offers quality pours and live music nightly.

BEYOND THE TRIANGLE

Blue Moon Bistro – 119 Queen Street, Beaufort. (252) 726-5800. Coastal cuisine in a historic setting. This charming restaurant features daily specials and departure from the expected offerings of other coastal venues. Chef Swain’s eclectic menu includes references from Asia, France and America. For a balanced plate, enjoy a well-matched wine to accompany your entrée. Open for dinner Tues.-Sat.


Jim’s Famous BBQ - 115 S. Elliott Road, Chapel Hill (919) 942-7427. Happiness, Food & Spirits served up in a fun, casual atmosphere! Award-winning pit-smoked barbeque including fall-off-the-bone Baby Back and St. Louis style pork ribs, Western beef ribs, pulled or chopped pork shoulder, beef brisket, chicken, turkey and sausage. Plus catfish, wings, salads, burgers and more! Full service dine-in, take out, delivery and catering. Complete menu served all day long, seven days a week. Write to us: jim@great-pigs.com

La Residence – 202 West Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 967-2506. French-influenced, new American cuisine, warm inviting, ambience, superb service, all are combined for your dining pleasure in downtown Chapel Hill. Enclosed heated patio, late night music.

Pazzol – Southern Village, 700 Market Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 929-9968. Pazzol’s dining room welcomes you with contemporary Italian cuisine in an intimate casual environment. Need a quick bite on the run? Our Gourmet-To-Go offers fresh salads, antipasto, as well as traditional and gourmet pizza.

Provenance Restaurant – 203 West Weaver Street, Carrboro. (919) 967-5008. Included in Moreton Neal’s Top 25 restaurants for 2005, Provence is a casual restaurant in a quaint setting, in the heart of Carrboro. It offers a wide selection of wines and offers an eclectic menu including seafood specialties, outdoor patio. Serving dinner Monday–Saturday, 5:30 pm. Reservations suggested.

Spice Street – 201 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill. (919) 929-9466. Enjoy our casual upbeat atmosphere. An instant success with its concept in dining entertainment, Spice Street is a culinary experience created to nourish the soul and share flavors from around the world. Spice Street celebrates food and life.

Taluler’s Restaurant – 456 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. (919) 933-1177. The newest addition to the Restaurant Mecca of West Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. Talullas is an instant success with its “ethnic elegance” and “beautifully prepared food.” Its Eastern Mediterranean cuisine is simple, fresh, and exotic. Tuesday – Sunday 6-10 Dinner, 10-2 Bar, Lounge. www.talullas.com.

The Carolina Inn, rich history and charm, provides the ideal place for any occasion. We specialize in hand cut steaks, prime rib, fresh fish, and our famous baby back ribs. Make reservations for your next business lunch or business dinner, romantic dinner, anniversory celebration, or casual get together. www.winentertainment.com.

Zely & Ritz – 301 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. (919) 828-0018. Zely & Ritz is all about fresh, organic, locally grown dishes served in tapas style plates in an upscale, casual, yet hip and smoke-free environment. Named as one of the Top 20 Organic Restaurants in the US by Organic Style Magazine. Chef Sarig uses Mediterranean and Middle Eastern spices in unexpected ways to create fantastic culinary works of art paired with a Wine Spectator Award Winning boutique wine list.

Zest Cafe & Home Art – 8831 Six Forks Road, Raleigh. (919) 849-4792. Located in North Raleigh, Zest has being offered the freshest, finest food served with a zesty outlook since 1995. Dine in our cafe or outdoor patio for Lunch, Tues.-Sat. 11:00am-2:45pm, Dinner, Wed.-Sat. 5:30pm-9:00pm, and Brunch, Sun. 10:00am-2:00pm. Also, enjoy our Home Art selection of fun and whimsical home accessories, furnishings and gifts.
ROSY ALLURE FOR SUMMER; EU SEeks LABEL PROTECTION

Finally, it appears, dry rosés have found their niche. Once people taste the fresh, bright dry pinks streaming in this summer, the old prejudice against rosé as inevitably sweet and insipid is scotched. If you haven’t yet discovered these wonderfully appealing wines, get to a Triangle wine shop and pick up a bottle or two. Whole Foods stores in the Triangle has devoted an entire section to dry pink wines—over two dozen or so—from Argentina, the south of France, Italy, Spain, California and elsewhere.

Or stop by Crook’s Corner in Chapel Hill early some evening and cool down with a delectable flight of dry rosés specially selected by wine director Shane Healy. They work great with the southern fare of chef Bill Smith, whether it’s homegrown barbecue or green tobasco chicken.

These wines, especially the 2005s, are as refreshing as they look. Whenever I serve them—which is often in summer—the question always arises: How do the wines get that color? Rosés are traditionally made from red grapes. Color in wine comes from pigments in the grape skins. To make red wines, the skins and juice remain in contact anywhere from seven to 21 days during fermentation. But for rosés the juice is pulled off the skins in a matter of hours. The winemaker decides when the juice has picked up just the degree of desired color—from a pale blush to coral to strawberry pink—and draws it off the skins to continue fermentation.

Dry rosés are meant for quaffing; they are best when young, when the fruit is fresh and zingy and the flavors are bright and nervy. Many of them are delightful just on their own, but they also can handle a variety of seasonal foods, such as cold meats, chicken or tuna salads, pasta primavera, grilled sausages, quiche; they are excellent with goat cheese, or with ricotta salata, the savory young sheep’s milk cheese.

I simply wouldn’t be without them in summer and have already begun stashing a few, such as the 2005 Domaine Houchart from Provence—it’s even better than last year’s. I also particularly like the Malbec Rosé, Vida Orgánica, an organic dry pink from Argentina—quite the bargain, too, at $7.99 a bottle. Buy six at Whole Foods and the 10 percent discount brings the price down to $7.19! Can’t beat it.

Of course, there are some very pricey dry rosés, well upwards of $15. Are they worth it? Not when you can find such appealing versions for less. At the pricey levels—$22, $28, even $30—people are drinking labels, not simple fresh wine that is easy to drink.

As new ones appear, I keep trying them. Here are some specially recommended, quite dry and most appealing, to get you started:

- Domaine Houchart 2005, Côtes de Provence, $10.99, a blend of grenache, syrah and other Rhône grapes.  
- Domaine des Coccinelles 2005, Côtes-du-Rhône, $9.99, a little fuller in body; great for grilled chicken, pork chops or sausages.  
- Château Grande Cassagne 2005, Costières de Nîmes, France, $11.95, berryish fruits galore.  
- Mas Carlot 2004 Cuvée Tradition, $10.99, a
Robert Kacher selection from southern France; intriguing red currant flavors.

Vida Orgánica Malbec Rosé 2005, Argentina, $7.99. Malbec produces very intense red wines, but this dry pink is light and charming.

Tin Roof 2004 Dry Rosé, Sonoma, CA $10.99.

TRUTH IN LABELING

Negotiators from the US and the European Union were, at the time of this writing, beginning a second round of trade talks regarding the use of European place names on generic wines, specifically Champagne, Port and Sherry. Domestic wines so labeled bear little, often no, resemblance to the distinctive wines produced in those centuries-old regions: the Champagne region of France, the Porto region of Portugal and Spain, home of the oft-imitated-but-ultimately-inimitable Sherry.

The use of these names arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when immigrants from Europe began making wine here, using whatever grapes were available, in the style of those from their home countries. It was perhaps understandable for the time. The winemakers wanted to convey to their consumers some sense of the style of the wine. Italian immigrants labeled medium-bodied reds Chianti, despite the fact they usually contained no sangiovese (the principal grape used for Chianti in Tuscany). More full-bodied reds were labeled Burgundy, which in the Burgundy region of France is made entirely from pinot noir, whereas jug wines so-labeled were made from any sort of blend. Dryish whites were labeled White Burgundy but contained no chardonnay, the same for the sweeter Sauternes, after the great sweet white distinctive to Bordeaux in France, or Rhine wines that contained no riesling.

Champagne producers particularly resented the use of that illustrious name on cheap, inferior bulk-produced bubbly, or even well-made sparklers that use the exact procedure that originated in the Champagne region. Consumers should no longer be misled by brands that “seek legitimacy off of others’ names,” as one EU representative put it.

These names have become almost generic as some view it, however, conveying a type or style of wine that may be difficult to categorize otherwise. It could prove hardest for American producers of port, for instance. Northern Portugal’s distinctive Port wine, made with Portuguese grape varieties and in traditional styles evolved in the Douro region, has, like Sherry, unique character and flavor that comes from the soil, climate and traditional techniques used to make and age it. American “port” is made from many different grapes—some with Portuguese varieties but also from zinfandel, cabernet, even domestic grapes such as norton. While such wines are made “in the style of” Portuguese Port, from very ripe grapes and fortified with alcohol like Port and Sherry, and while they may be quite good in their own way, to taste them beside an original demonstrates more the differences than the similarities. Often, in my view, they pale in comparison.

A knotty situation... we shall see how it works out.

Wine Buy of the Month

Rosa Regale Brachetto d’Acqui, Italy, $19.95. Last month Fowler’s gourmet emporium in Durham held a sparkling wine tasting. The wines were generally excellent, but this vivid pink from Italy’s Piedmont region was one of the standouts. Lightly sparkling and off-dry but brisk and lively, perhaps the best match with chocolate—especially dark chocolate, a match we tried on the spot and found quite ravishing. Widely available hereabouts, it’s a must for your summer wine cache.
It's been several months since I read an advanced proof of Which Brings Me to You: A Novel in Confessions by Steve Almond and Julianna Baggott, and nearly two months have passed since Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill got the title onto bookstore shelves. (The official publication date was May 5.) But despite what may look like lateness here, I can't think of a better time to recommend—and highly recommend—the novel to readers. Which Brings Me to You is not only an impressive literary achievement; it is also a fine “summer read”: funny, smart, quick, plot-driven but also episodic, with sections of the book reading like small short stories—little narrative gems.

The overarching story is fairly simple, and the structure falls together naturally. John and Jane (names purposefully generic, John first, telling about Jodi Dunne, a literary achievement; it is recommended—and highly recommended—and inside I think of a better time to recommend the novel to readers. Which Brings Me to You is not only an impressive literary achievement; it is also a fine “summer read”: funny, smart, quick, plot-driven but also episodic, with sections of the book reading like small short stories—little narrative gems.

The overarching story is fairly simple, and the structure falls together naturally. John and Jane (names purposefully generic, it seems) meet at a wedding and decide to have sex in the coat closet, despite the fact (as Jane comments) that it “seems unfair to the coats.” But in mid-coitus, John pulls away, admitting, “I think I like you... I'm scared that doing this, like this, before we even know each other might, you know, mess things up.” Banter follows—flirty, defensive—and an agreement is reached to trade letters, each person telling the other about their respective pasts: relationships, casual lovers, mistakes, regrets, etc. After they return to their respective homes, the letters are presented chapter by chapter: John first, telling about Jodi Dunne, a young girl he began dating when he was 16.

Gimmicky? Sure, a little. And maybe a little more gimmicky with two authors collaborating on the project, if you imagine—as I do—that Almond wrote the John letters and Baggott wrote the Jane ones, and the two of them perhaps writing the novel in a correspondence similar to the correspondence of the characters? Perhaps each was trying to up the ante on the other in a writerly contest of some kind?

In either event, it works—and works wonderfully. The letters give us each character's history of romantic entanglements—those first fumbling sexual encounters and later hook-ups with a wide and various cast of characters (and personality types); antics ranging from lesbian sex and threesomes to light bouts of s&m; plenty of heartache and heartbreak (both inflicted and endured); and even a marriage proposal and a cancelled engagement (I won't say whose here).

But more than just quick, sometimes quirky love stories, the connections between the letters—the narrative arcs that hold each character's tale together—allow us to see individual lives unfolding and characters growing in ways that attempt to illuminate larger issues: gender, for example, or family struggles, or existential questions.

In the process, the two characters circle ever closer to one another in a clever, epis tological dance marking the real love story here, not the individual confessions from the past, but the one big love affair that may be building steam between John and Jane. Are they in love? I won't spoil the conclusion—except to say that even when the characters meet again, both of the novelists behind those characters are aware of one of the first rules of fiction: only conflict is interesting. And as our character Jane recognizes: “Everything is more complicated the more love is infused into it.”

Throughout my own reading of the novel, I sensed that Almond and Baggott were having fun writing the book—and that fun is, fortunately, infectious. Which Brings Me to You is simply a great read—highly recommended.

NORTH CAROLINA BOOKWATCH
After some of last month's encore performances, North Carolina Bookwatch returns to UNC-TV with a batch of new programs, including interviews with some truly stellar talents from throughout the state.

July's programs kick off with an episode featuring Will Blythe, author of the UNC-Duke basketball book, To Hate Like This is to be Happy Forever (profiled in Metro's May issue). That episode airs on Friday, July 7, at 9:30 p.m., with a repeat airing on Sunday, July 9, at 5 p.m. The rest of July's schedule follows a similar format (Fridays at 9:30, Sundays at 5), with guests as follows:

• John Hart, author of legal thriller King of Lies, Friday, July 14, and Sunday, July 16.
• Young adult novelist Sarah Dessen with her latest book, Just Listen, on Friday, July 21, and Sunday, July 23.
• Journalist Kristin Henderson, author of While They're at War: The True Story of American Families on the Homefront, on Friday, July 28, and Sunday, July 30.

MORE JULY HIGHLIGHTS
While summer generally seems to mark a slower season for reading and signings, many bookstores throughout our region are still boasting a strong calendar of events this month.

Margaret Sartor reads from her new memoir, Miss American Pie, about growing up in the Deep South of the 1970s, both at Durham's Regulator Bookshop on Thursday evening, July 6, and at McIntyre's Books at Fearrington Village on Saturday morning, July 8.
Rebecca Lee, a UNC-Wilmington professor and winner of the 2001 National Magazine Award for Fiction, reads from her new novel, *The City is a Rising Tide*, at three locations: Wednesday evening, July 12, at McIntyre's Books; Thursday evening, July 13, at the Regulator; and Wednesday, July 19, at Raleigh's Quail Ridge Books.

Paul Kiell discusses the life of legendary track star Glenn Cunningham in *American Miler*, Thursday afternoon, July 13, at the Country Bookshop in Southern Pines.

Comedian and UNC-Chapel Hill grad Lewis Black discusses his memoir *Nothing's Sacred* on Thursday evening, July 13, at the Barnes & Noble in Cary.


Several local authors—Eric J. Bailey, *Food Choice and Obesity in Black America*; Worth Forbes, *From the Ground Up*; LaDena Renwick-Tilley, *A Woman Called Job*; and L. Diane Wolfe, *James*—all share their works on Thursday evening, July 20, at the Barnes & Noble in Greenville.

Forensic anthropologist and bestselling author Kathy Reichs presents her newest Temperance Brennan book, *Break No Bones*, on Friday evening, July 21, at the Barnes & Noble at Brier Creek in Raleigh.


Mark Childress, author of *Crazy in Alabama*, reads from *One Mississippi* on Monday evening, July 24, at Quail Ridge Books.

Jonathon Womack discusses his adventure novel *A Cry for a Hero*, Friday evening, July 28, at the Barnes & Noble at Southpoint.

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**Castro and Cuba:**

**The Inside Story**

*August 23-25, 2006 NEW DATES!*

**Topics Include:**

- Cuba after Fidel by former CIA Latin American chief Brain Latell
- The Missile Crisis, new revelations by CIA's former science and technology operative Gene Poteat
- Castro, the Third World and the KGB by UVA scholar and Cold War expert Timothy Naftali
- The Castro Obsession, U.S. operations against Cuba by retired *Miami Herald Latin America* editor Don Bohning
- Fidel: Hollywood's Favorite Tyrant by author and Cuba commentator Humberto Fontova
- Cuban Culture: Castro's Destructive Leadership by Cuban-born management professor Art Padilla

Check [www.raleighspyconference.com](http://www.raleighspyconference.com) for updates.

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“Radio Pop”:

NEW DIRECTION FOR KATHERINE WHALEN

Katherine Whalen, vocalist and founding member of the celebrated Chapel Hill band Squirrel Nut Zippers, is back in the racks with an album that doesn't bear any resemblance to anything she's done previously.

Dirty Little Secret, produced by David Sale, is Whalen in a pop music setting. Having previously released her Jazz Squad album in 1999, and prior to that having been involved in the retro-centricity that was the Zippers, we had reason to expect more jazz from Whalen. Instead, she's chosen to expand her horizons yet again, singing pop music and doing it quite convincingly.

I recently met up with Whalen at Gary's Sunset Grille and we talked over Dirty Little Secret. She began by explaining how she initially got up with Sale.

"I met David through a mutual friend," she said. "David is from Ithaca, New York. He came up with all the folks who started the grassroots festival in Trumansburg, New York—that's the parent of the Shakori Hills festival."

She explained that Sale was working on some songs he wanted to record as a demo while staying in North Carolina and needed a vocalist.

"He wanted a female vocal on the demo, and my friend suggested him to me," she said. "I went over and he played them for me on guitar. I thought they were cool songs. We put the songs on a cassette, and I walked around listening to them. I learned them, went back, and we cut them right then and there.

"He was basically launching as a producer—he writes a lot of songs—and he wanted to have these songs good-to-go in case he wanted to shop them."

Once Sale and Whalen got together, however, Sale evidently began to think in grander terms than simply cutting demos.

"When he worked with me, he took a different direction," Whalen said. "He wanted us to write together and make a whole album.

"David did some of the tracks in San Diego," she added. "We did the first tracks about a year-and-a-half ago. He had four songs finished and we wrote three together. He came and stayed on my property, in my music barn. He'd be out there with his computer and electric piano, just working all the cuts I was really sick, but David would be like, 'So what? You're gonna sound different.' We did those seven songs and then he went away, so there was a lull. He got a MySpace thing up for me and started all this behind-the-scenes stuff."

While Sale had a good many tunes and ideas for the project, he didn't have a record deal. Though he provided the impetus for the recording, it was Whalen who almost time. Meanwhile, I was coming and going with my daughter and doing my life.

"David would say, 'come out, let's pitch this song,' and I'd go out to the music barn and pitch it and key it and all that. Then eventually I'd do the vocal. On some of the inadvertently landed the record deal.

"I was contacted by Mark Carpentieri, who owns MC Records," she explained. "Mark picked up my Jazz Squad album. He wanted to know if I wanted to do another jazz record. I kind of hemmed and hawed,
DISCOLOGY

Solas:
Reunion: A Decade of Solas
(Compass)

Fans of Celtic music know that the Irish/American crew Solas is one of the finest Celtic bands on the planet, so the release of this epic double-disc set will be of major significance. The CD features 17 of Solas’ most potent tracks, including “Black Annis,” “Pastures of Plenty,” “Highlands of Holland,” “On A Sea of Fleur De Lis,” “Silver Dagger,” and “Concon Dog/Morning Dew.” The CD was tracked live during the Solas reunion concert in Philadelphia (a 10th anniversary concert). Many notable Solas alumni returned for the gig—Karan Casey, John Doyle, Donal Clancy, John Williams—joining current Solas members Seamus Egan, Mick McAuley, Eamon McElholm, Deirdre Scallon, and Winifred Horan. The second disc in this set is a DVD record of the Philadelphia concert. This band has been stunning since its inception and eponymous debut album in 1996, and 10 years after there’s still no Celtic music act that’s more awe-inspiring than Solas. For any fan of Celtic music, as well as any fan of great music, Reunion is a must-buy.

Eldar:
Live at the Blue Note
[Sony Classical]

Wonder boy Eldar Djangirov left Kyrgyzstan for the US at age 11, landed a major label deal in his teens, and is only 19 years old now. He’s an astonishing pianist by any measure, and this album certainly confirms that notion. Performing here in a trio setting with drummer Todd Strait and bassist Marco Panacida—and guests Roy Hargrove and Chris Botti (both on trumpet), Eldar works 10 tunes in a post-bop mode, including “Besame Mucho,” Thelonious Monk’s “Straight, No Chaser,” and “You Don’t Know What Love Is.” Eldar’s piano is impossibly fluid, given his relative youth, and terrifically expressive. This CD is an outstanding listening experience for jazz fans.

Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas:
Hang It High, Hang It Low
(Rounder)
The thing you have to love about Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas is that they’re still doing real deal Zydeco. They were doing it before Zydeco became trendy among short-attention-span pop music fans, and they’re doing it now, while the media shovels swill like American Idol and the latest no-talent pop star. Hang It High is a very cool piece of work, offering terrific Zydeco numbers such as “Don’t Worry ‘Bout the Mule” the title track, and “My Zydeco.” This is what the two-step’s all about. Nathan Williams also has some advice, by way of example, for how to handle oneself on payday—see “I Was Born at Night (But Not Last Night).” This is solid, old-school Zydeco and blues in the best tradition of South Louisiana music.

Dr. John:
Right Place, Right Time: Live at Tipitina’s – Mardi Gras ’89
[Hyena]

A person would have to have been born under a rock on Mars in order to fail to grasp the good-time potential of this live disc. Dr. John at Tipitina’s in pre-inundation New Orleans during Mardi Gras is as good as it’s ever going to get in the land of “fork.” This album delivers 10 killer numbers, including “Walk on Gilded Splinters,” “Wang Dang Doodle,” “Junco Partner” and “Such a Night.” The recording is top notch, and so is the performance. The Doctor assembled a brilliant crew of sidemen for this show and they do rock most convincingly. The album’s worth the asking price simply for the howling sax solo on “Wang Dang Doodle,” though we get a good deal more than that for our hard-earned money. This is Volume Two of The Rebennack Chronicles, and that’s a chronicle worth pursuing for the hip music lover.

since I’d already done that, and I wasn’t really playing that music much now anyway.”

Whalen sent Carpentieri what she had been doing, however, which consisted of some country music demos and the demos she’d done for Sale.

“It was my way of saying ‘this is what I’m doing now.’ I wasn’t really expecting anything, but he liked the pop stuff. He offered me money to finish the project, so I went for it.”

As far as listing the musicians who played on Dirty Little Secret, that’s easy. David Sale.

“He did all the tracks,” Whalen said. “He did it all. That makes this album completely different from any previous recording experience I’ve had, all of which involved several people. It was very difficult for me to trust one person with all the music. I’m used to a drummer, a bass player—to a bunch of individuals with whom I can interact. This, however, was Sale, his keyboard, guitar and computer.

“It was a leap of faith for me.”

It will also be something of a leap of faith for Whalen’s fans, who’ve never heard her doing this type of music. When asked to describe the style of her new album, Whalen replied: “Radio pop. That’s really what we were talking about as we were making the record. We wanted it to be radio ready. It’s completely different from anything I’ve ever sung. I was also doing multi-tracking, which I’ve never done before.”

Whalen also said that she’s planning to make a country music album, probably in collaboration with the band Hooverville, with whom she’s been performing around the Triangle on occasion.

In the meantime, Whalen and her new record have an upcoming spot on World Café, and eventually she’ll bring Dirty Little Secret to the Triangle, with Hobex as her backing band.

“We will play here [Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill], but I wanted to go on the road first,” she allowed. “I’d like to present something solid when I show up here for a show.”

DIXON ADVISORY

Arrogance founding member, producer, songwriter, and excellent bass guitarist Don Dixon has released a new album titled The Entire Combustible World in One Small Room. Look for a review of this new disc in the August P&V column.
EYES ONLY

Eva S. Anton, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine has received the 2006 Staglin Family Music Festival Award for Schizophrenia Research. The $250,000 grant was awarded by NARSAD, the Mental Health Research Association. Anton's identification of the role of the gene neuregulin-1, which guides cells to their place in the developing brain's cerebral cortex.

The National Film Preservation Foundation has received a $50,000 matching grant to Duke's Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library for the preservation of additional films by NC itinerant filmmaker H. Lee Waters. Films from 12 towns—11 in North Carolina and one in Virginia—will be sent to Duke for preservation and added to "Movies of Local People" collection.

Director Sara Craven, who began working almost 20 years ago with Duke's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), is retiring. Under her leadership OLLI became a nationally recognized institute for methods on learning and teaching in retirement (80 percent of the teachers are volunteers). OLLI now has close to 80 classes in education, industry and the arts. For information, visit www.learnmore.duke.edu/OLLI.

An iTunes Web site that allows users to download Fuqua speeches, interviews and conference presentations to their iPods has been launched by Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. The site, www_fuqua.duke.edu/iTunes, is part of Apple Computer Inc.'s iTunes U program and can be accessed free by the public.

Saint Mary's School of Raleigh has received a 2006 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education WealthEngine Award for Educational Fundraising, a program which honors superior fundraising programs at schools, colleges and universities across the country. Saint Mary's School is one of nine independent schools nationwide receiving the award this year for overall performance.

Geomagic, a worldwide software and services firm, has been awarded Technology of the Year by the Council for Entrepreneurial Development (CED). The honor, presented at CED's annual 2006 Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards banquet, recognized Geomagic's leadership in the field of digital shape sampling and processing. The technology was used for ensuring the safe return of the NASA STS-114 Discovery "Return to Flight" mission, for digital reconstruction of the Statue of Liberty and for helping manufacturing companies move from mass production to mass customization.

Calvert Café, an upscale coffee bar with lunch options, recently opened in downtown Raleigh. The café is located in the lobby near the Museum Shop. Food and beverage selections will include coffee, espresso, fruit smoothies, muffins, pastries, cookies and a selection of wrap sandwiches and salads. The café is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Call-ahead orders for groups are welcomed. For more information, call 919-807-7843.

Lassie, the world's most famous pet, came to Raleigh on July 1 and hosted a pet adoption event at local Harris Teeter supermarkets. Lassie is on a five-month nationwide tour this spring with her celebrity pet vet to promote the release of her new all-natural dog food line, Lassie Natural Way, and her new movie launching in September.

Tweetsie Railroad in Blowing Rock, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a year-long extravaganza that will kick off on July 4 with festivities including evening entertainment and a spectacular mountain fireworks show. The park was a dream of Grover Robbins Jr., who brought the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Engine Number 12 (known as "Tweetsie" to local residents) back home to the mountains of North Carolina. The first run at the park was on July 4, 1956.

APPOINTMENTS

Nikhil Bhopa has been named Director of Rooms and Laura Grisham as Director of Catering and Conference Services at the Umstead Hotel and Spa, a new luxury property being built in Cary.

Elizabeth Kiss, founding Director of Duke University's Kenan Institute for Ethics, has been named the eighth President of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA.

Gaston Warner has been named Director of University and Community Relations for Duke University Chapel, Durham.

Wake Radiology President and Managing Partner Dr. Robert E. Schaaf, has named Ron Mitchell as the Raleigh company's new Chief Information Officer.

Joseph Haj has been appointed Producing Artistic Director of PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill.

Anne Everhart has been appointed Program Director of Raleigh's Community Music School.
THE RETURN OF FIDEL CASTRO

Carlos the Jackal he called himself. He and the Argentine-born Ernesto "Che" Guevara are the best-known icons of the violent Left, as evidenced by the ubiquitous posters of Che, the guerilla fighter still glaring down today from dorm room walls and radical pads worldwide. Carlos, real name Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (his parents had a thing for the Russian Bolsheviks), now serving a life sentence in a Paris jail since the early ’90s, was mentioned in dispatches just recently by none other than Hugo Chavez, the socialist leader of Venezuela, Carlos’ nation of birth.

Che, killed in 1967 in Bolivia by agents provocateur, probably an American covert team, served under Castro and his brother Raúl in the take-over of Cuba in 1959. He became a martyr to the communist cause, thus ensuring his enduring appeal to revolutionists everywhere. Carlos, however, was more of a global freelance assassin than a hemispheric revolutionary though he was consistently identified with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and other Middle Eastern terror groups and strong men. Carlos was remembered fondly by President Chavez recently for his attack on a meeting of OPEC in Vienna in the 1970s. The Jackal killed three and held the oil ministers hostage for a jet plane home.

The link between Carlos and Che was the Soviet Union. Their agents fomented revolution in Latin America and funded and protected Castro’s Cuba until the collapse of the USSR in 1991. As for Carlos, it is now known—through revelations by the former chief of the Russian secret service Ion Pacea—that Yassir Arafat, the leader of the PLO, Carlos’ main employer, was a KGB agent.

These personalities should be old news, but they are not, due to the re-emergence of Fidel Castro on the world stage in the last few months. Coincidentally, or perhaps not, Castro turns 80 in August, a rather advanced age to be on the prowl, as if it were 1959 all over again. But there he is, on Fox and CNN, attacking his old nemesis the United States for the killing of Muslim terrorists, calling the acts “barbaric” and hinting he is in cahoots with Islamic jihadists, creating the potential for Cuba to become a staging ground for terror raids into the US. Perhaps the recent arrest of seven Islamoterrorists in Miami will make the point.

All this blustering by Castro comes at a time when the aging Maximum Leader of Cuba was already appearing on the geopolitical radar screen as policy planners began speculating what would happen to Cuba “after Fidel.” This is the next big thing in American policy planning, ranking just under the Iraq war and nuclear saber-rattling by Iran and North Korea. And the issue of Castro and Cuba brings forth a flood of emotion as Cuban-Americans, contemplating taking Cuba back, and active and retired CIA officers look for an outlet to vent their rage and angst that Castro got away from them and humiliated the US by becoming a Soviet puppet state only 90 miles away from the American mainland.

Castro used to be more than a regional threat. It is now known from previously secret archives that Soviet leader Nikita Khurchev approved a plan in 1961 clearing the path for the KGB to appoint Castro to organize the Non-Aligned Movement to engage in political warfare against the US. The concept was to recruit newly emerging nations, many created during the gradual end of colonialism after World War II, into the Soviet sphere to gain world hegemony at the expense of America and the West.

In the second installment of the Mitrokhin Archive by Cambridge intelligence expert Chris Andrew (the keynote speaker at the first Raleigh International Spy Conference in 2003), Castro is quoted addressing the Fourth Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Algiers in 1973: “Only the closest alliance among all the progressive forces of the world will provide us with the strength to overcome the still-powerful forces of imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism, and to wage a successful fight for the aspirations to peace and justice of all the peoples of the world.” Castro was much more than a bad neighbor, he was financed by the Soviets to organize the world against the US and the West. And he put the KGB money where his mouth was by sending Cuban troops to 24 countries—in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and South America.

It appears all roads to political treachery in the modern era led to Moscow, and many times to Castro. From the ill-fated Bay of Pigs to the Cuban Missile Crisis—the closest the world came to nuclear war—through assassination plots, incessant espionage, torture and murder, you would think Castro, especially after the collapse of his piggy-bank, the Soviet Union, would simply grow old and die. Instead, like a summer re-run on television, the old warrior is back, financed by the oil money of his protégé Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.


Go to www.raleighspyconference.com or call 919-807-7917 for more information and to register for this informative and important event. And take note of the ad in this issue listing the expert speakers coming to Raleigh to talk about Castro and Cuba.
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